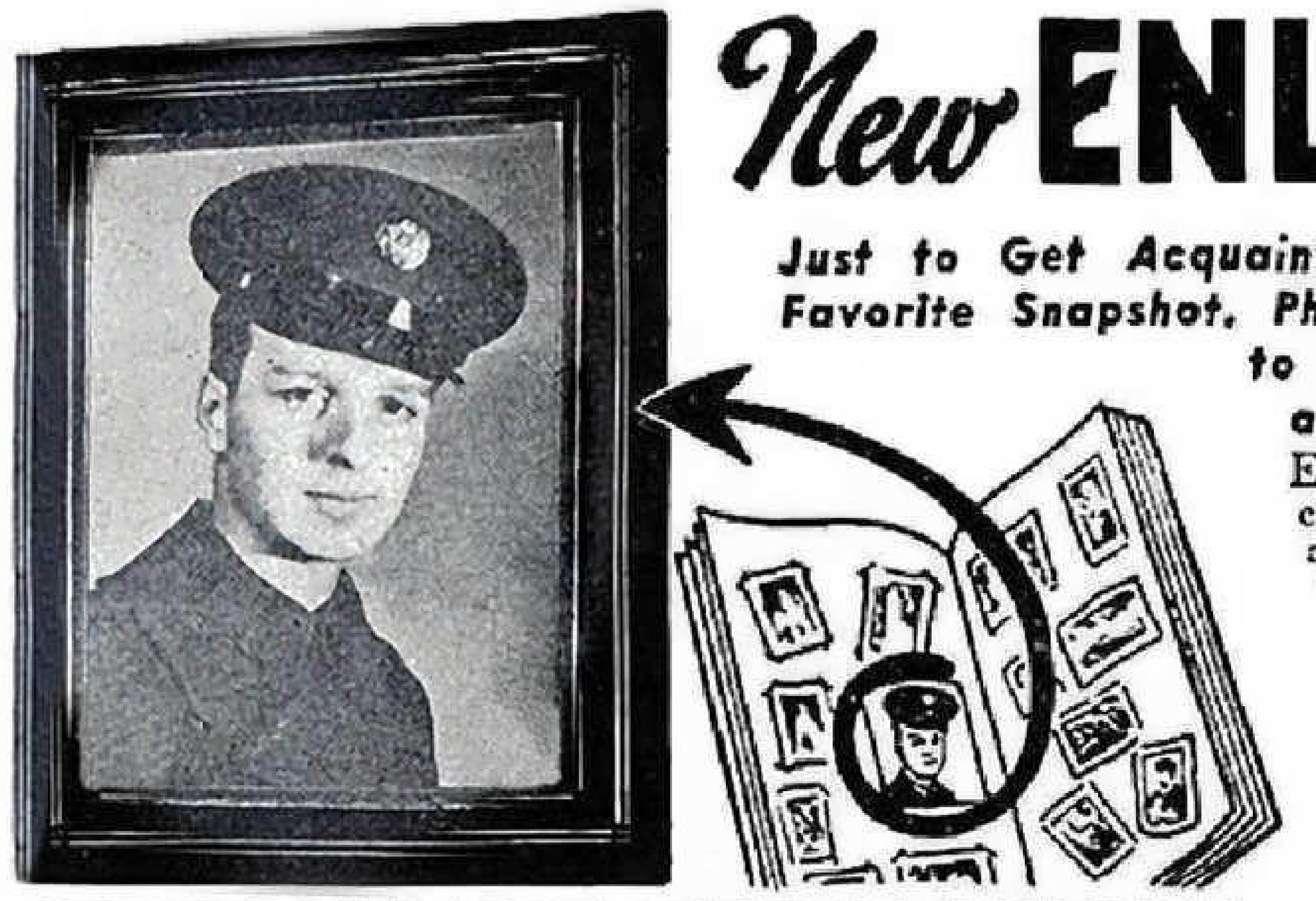
MARVEL MYSTERY COMICS

10c

NO. 60

DEC.

SUPER ROCKET SHELL



New ENLARGEMENT 3¢ STAMP

Just to Get Acquainted We Will Beautifully Enlarge Your Favorite Snapshot, Photo, Kodak Picture, Print or Negative to 5 x 7 Inches If You Enclose the Coupon and a 3 Cent Stamp for Return Mailing!

Everyone admires pictures in natural colors because the surroundings and loved ones are so true to life, just the way they looked when the pictures were taken, so we want you to know also about our gorgeous colored enlargements. Think of having that small picture or snapshot enlarged to 5 by 7-inch size so that the details and features you love are more life-like and natural.

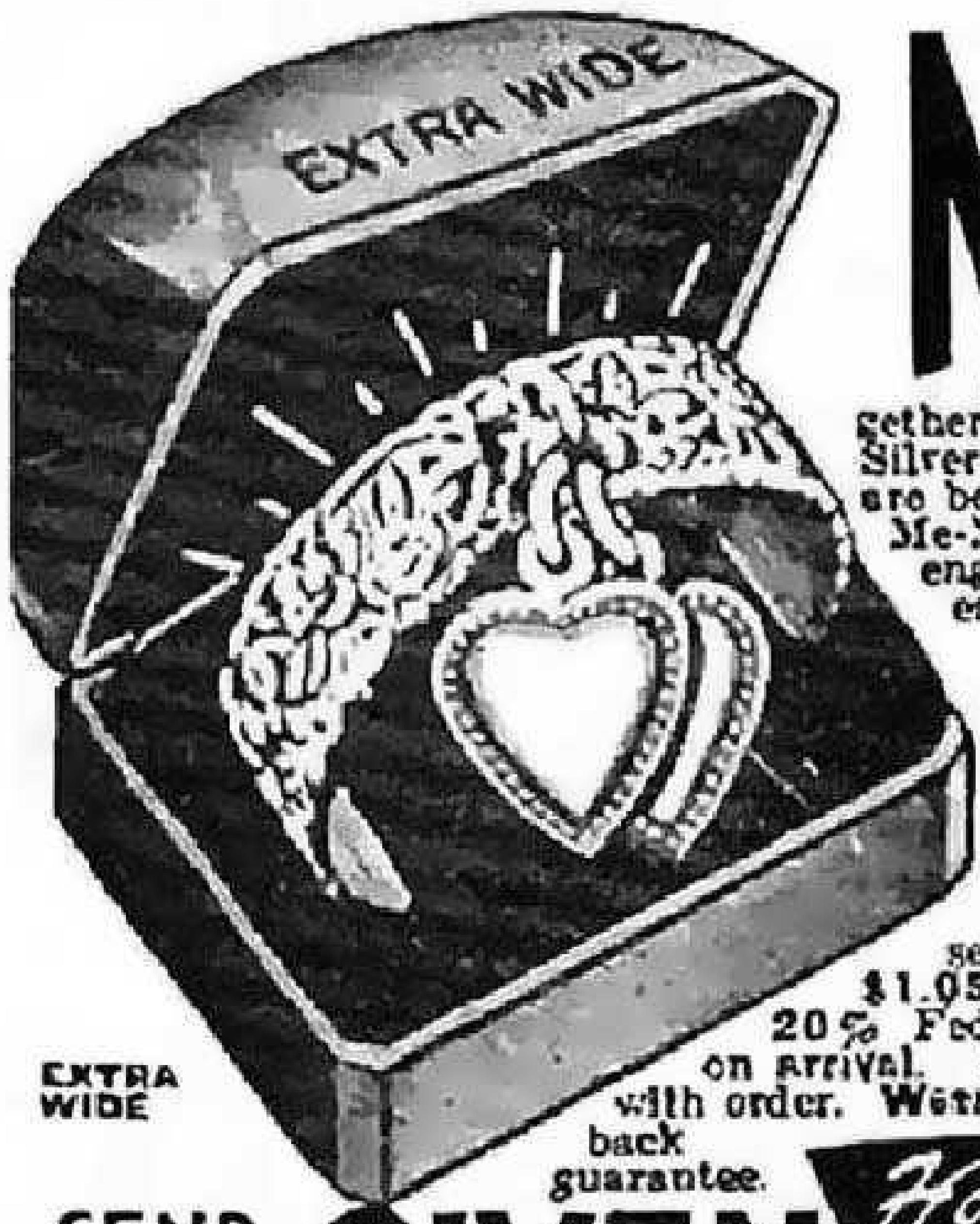
Over one million men and women have sent us their favorite snapshots and pictures for enlarging. Thousands write us how much they also enjoy their remarkably true-to-life, natural colored enlargements we have sent them in handsome black and gold, or ivory and gold frames.

Enclose this coupon with your favorite snapshot, picture or negative and send to **DEAN STUDIOS, Dept. 944, 211 W. 7th St., Des Moines, Iowa.**

Name	**Color of Hair** ....
Address	**Color of Eyes** ....
City .... State	....

You are now given a wonderful opportunity to receive a beautiful enlargement of your cherished snapshot, photo or Kodak picture. Please include the color of hair and eyes and get our new bargain offer giving you your choice of handsome frames with a second enlargement beautifully hand tinted in natural lifelike oil colors and sent on approval. Your original is returned with your enlargement. This amazing enlargement offer is our way of getting acquainted and letting you know the quality of our work. Send today as supplies are limited.

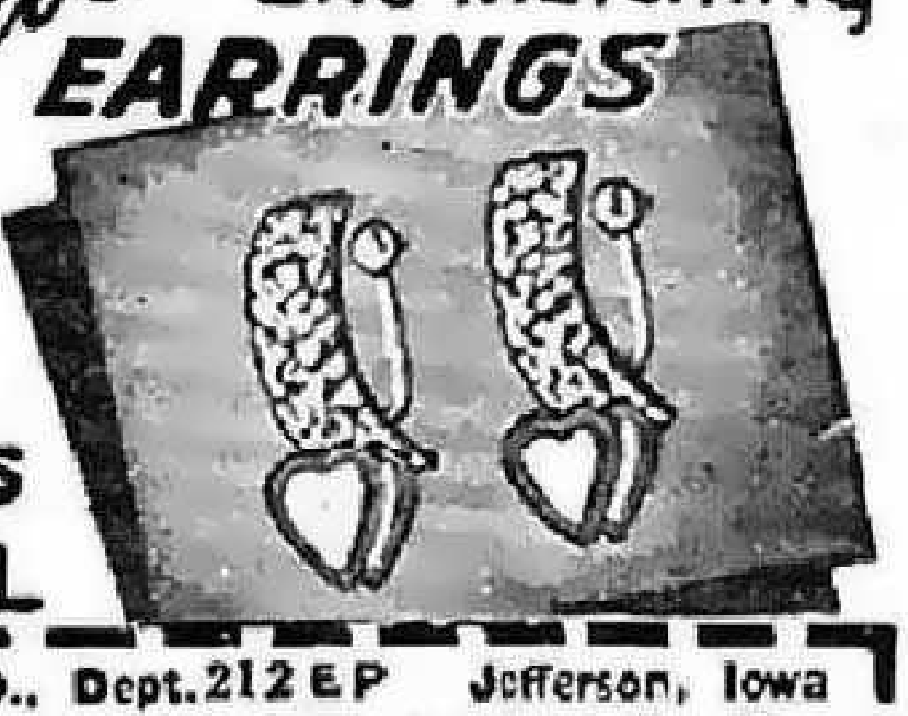
DEAN STUDIOS, Dept. 944, 211 W. 7th St., Des Moines, Iowa



NEW *True-Love and Friendship* *Sterling Silver* RING and Matching *EARRINGS*

PENDANT HEART DESIGN

What makes both the ring and the matching earrings so unusual and attractive is the twin Sterling Silver Pendant hearts that dangle daintily like sentimental and charming settings. Either the ring or earrings can be worn separately but together they are truly captivating. The precious Sterling Silver ring is extra wide. Both the ring and earrings are beautifully embossed with the very newest "Forget-Me-Not" design with two pendant hearts suitable for engraving initials of loved ones. Both the ring and earrings become more attractive and sentimental the longer they are worn.



$1.95 EACH

10 DAYS TRIAL

SEND NO MONEY

Mail the coupon today. Your package sent immediately and you pay postman only $1.05 each plus a few cents mailing cost and 20% Federal Tax for either the ring or earrings on arrival. **SEND NO MONEY** with order. **With 10 days on money-back guarantee.**

EXTRA WIDE

SEND TODAY

Hollywood
Photo Folder

GIVEN if you order **BOTH** the **Ring AND Earrings** and send your order **PROMPTLY.** Beautiful, genuine leather photo folder. (Comes with pictures of two popular Movie Stars.)

EMPIRE DIAMOND CO., Dept. 212 EP Jefferson, Iowa

I want to take advantage of your special bargain offer. Please send me the following:

☐ Extra Wide Band Sterling Silver "Forget-Me-Not" Ring

☐ Matching Sterling Silver Pendant Heart Earrings

I understand I can return my order within 10 days for any reason and you will refund promptly.

Name ....

Address ....

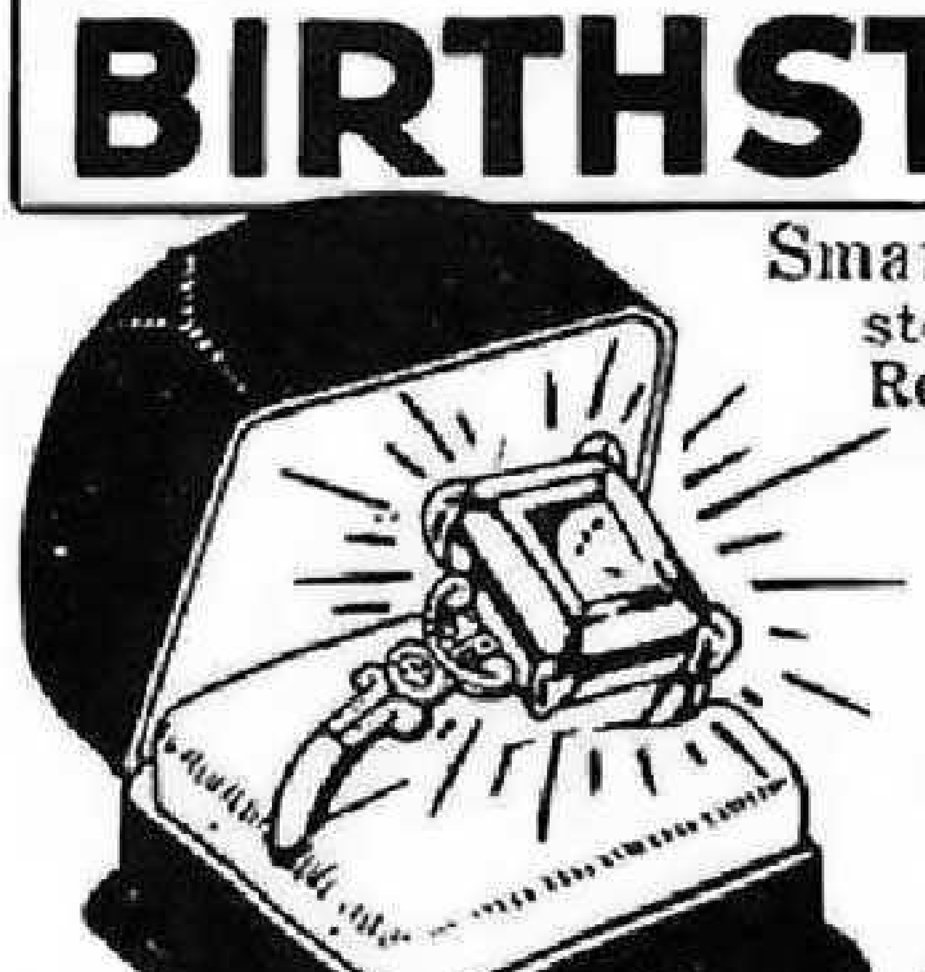
City ....

State .... Ring Size ....

Beautiful Simulated BIRTHSTONE RING GIVEN *AWAY*

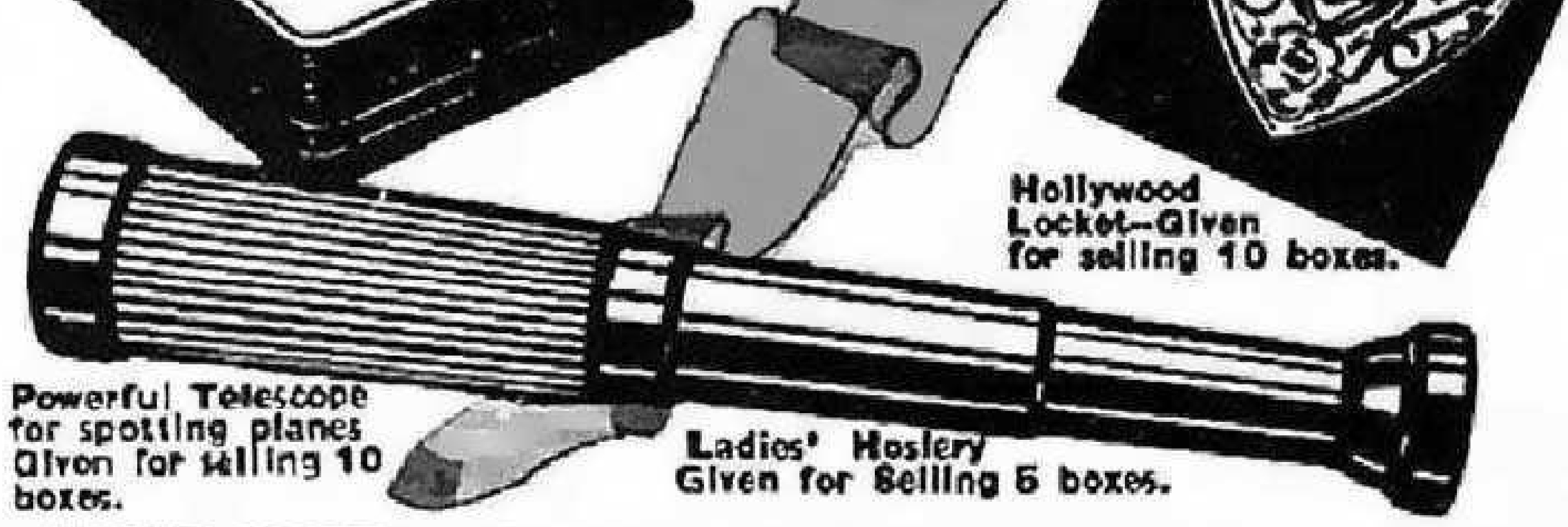
Also Other *Valuable Gifts.*

Smart, new, dainty, Sterling Silver Ring set with sparkling simulated Birthstone correct for your birth date—GIVEN for selling only 5 boxes of Gold Crown Spot Remover and Cleaner at 25c each and returning the money collected. Dozens of other useful and valuable gifts (Hose, Pens, Scissors, Rings, Lockets, Costume Jewelry, etc.) are also offered in our free catalog-circular. Send name and address today for order and catalog to start.



Birthstone Ring Given for Selling 5 boxes.

Hollywood Locket--Given for selling 10 boxes.



Powerful Telescope for spotting planes Given for selling 10 boxes.

Ladies' Hosiery Given for Selling 5 boxes.

Just Send The Coupon We TRUST You

Many feel it's lucky to wear their birthstone. Send coupon today.

GOLD CROWN PRODUCTS, Dept. E-16 Jefferson, Iowa

Enclose this coupon in an envelope or past it on a postcard and send it to **GOLD CROWN PRODUCT Dept. E-161 Jefferson, Iowa,** for order to start.

	Gift I would like to have you send me.
NAME	....
ADDRESS	....
CITY .... STATE	....

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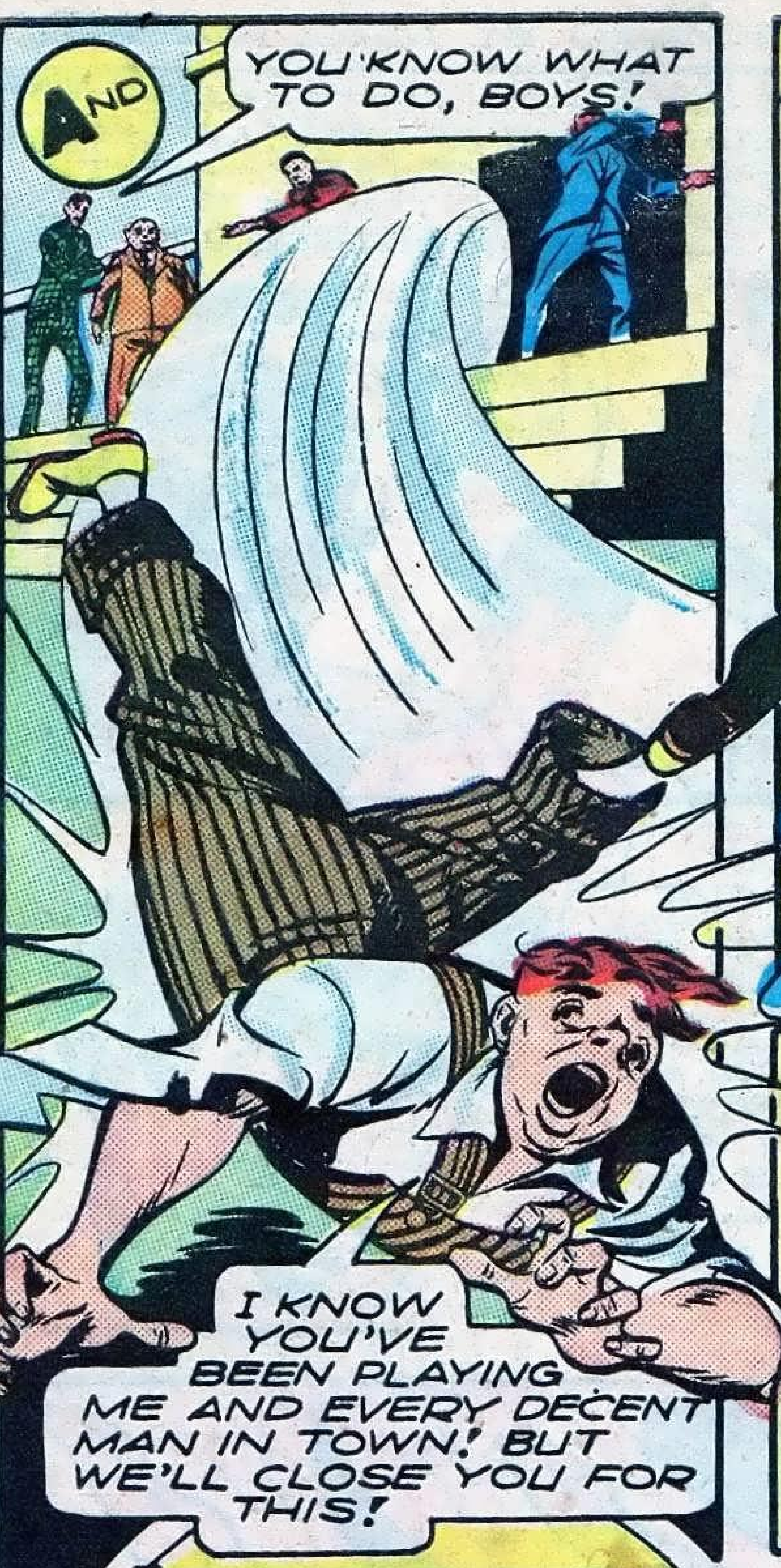
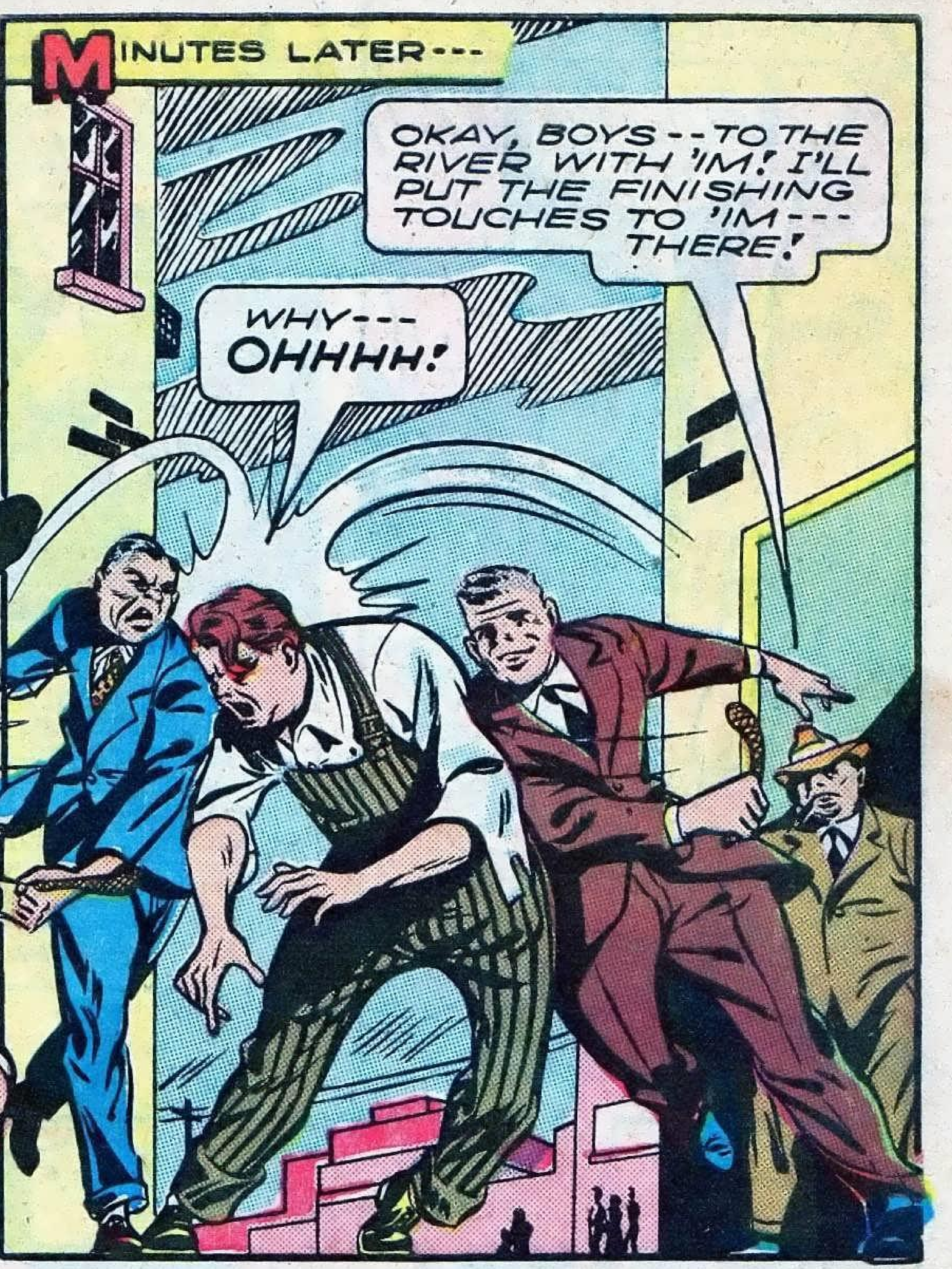
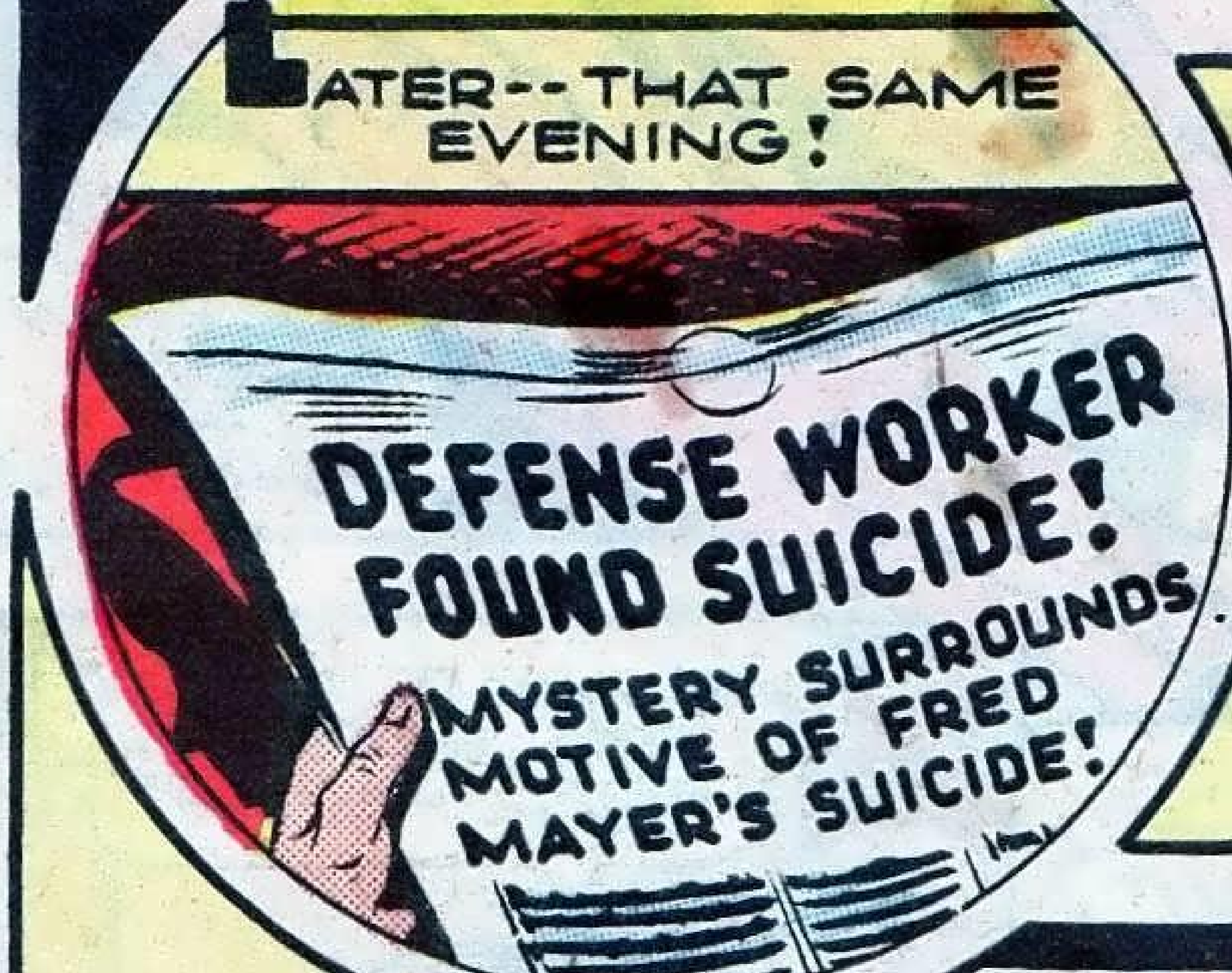
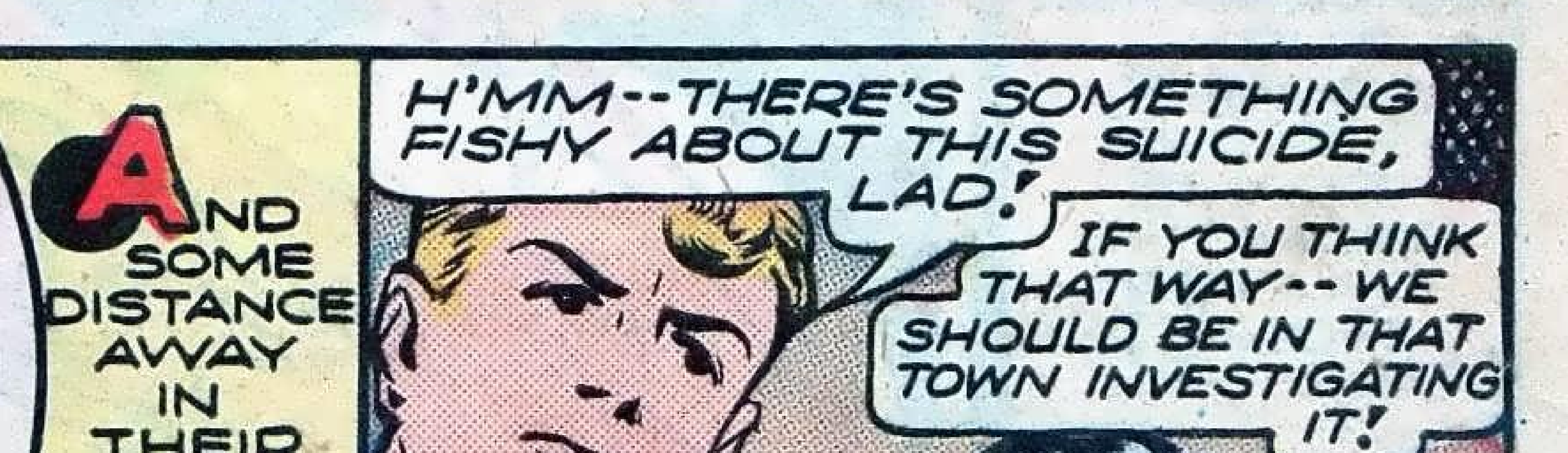
THE
HUMAN TORCH
"DEATH SPINS THE WHEEL!"

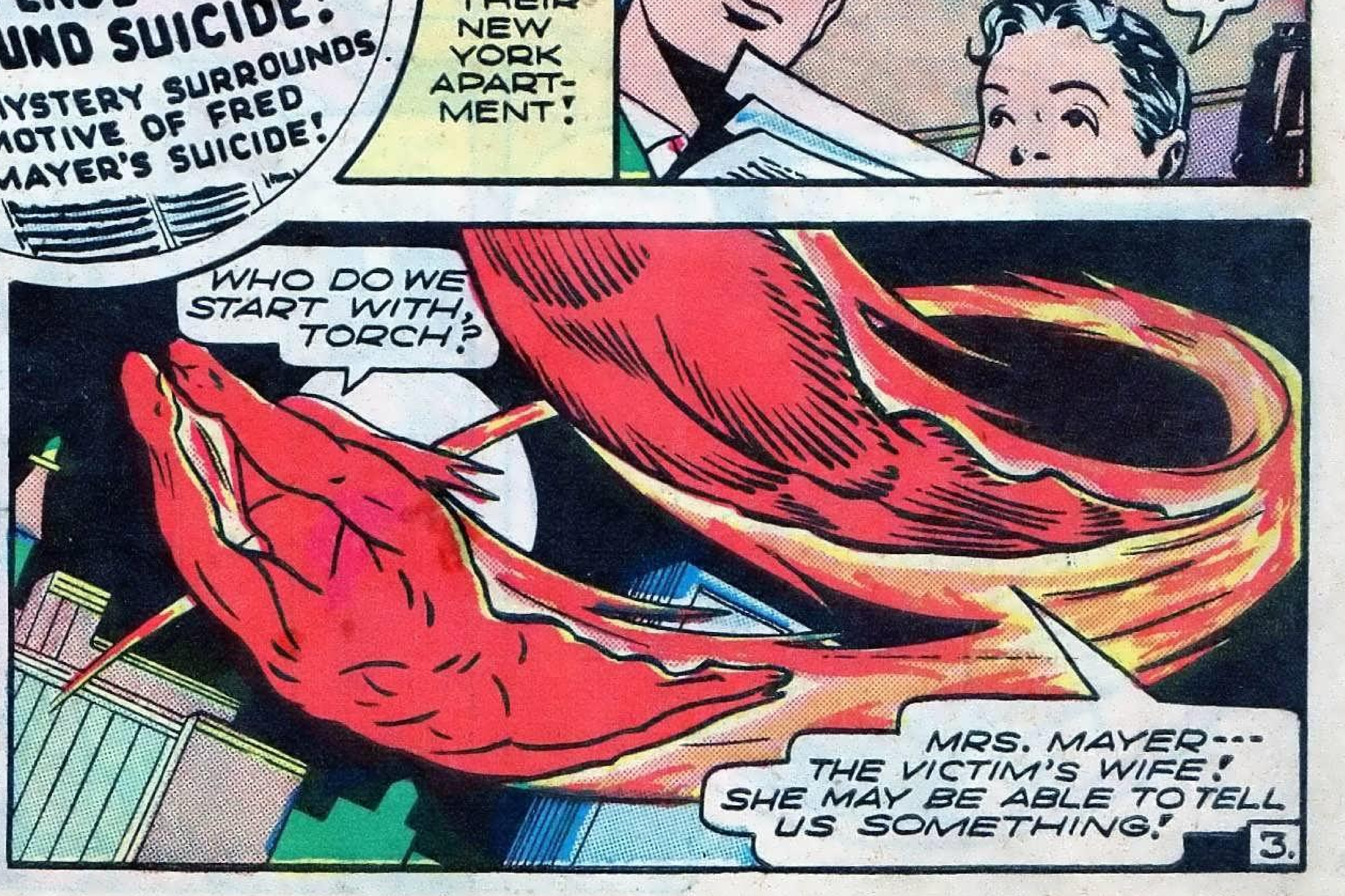
OUR STORY OPENS AT A GAMBLING HOUSE IN A LARGE MID-WEST DEFENSE PLANT TOWN!
HEY, JOE-- HERE COMES THAT SUCKER WE'VE BEEN PLAYING--! DOES HE WIN?
ON PAYDAY? DON'T BE NUTS! TAKE HIS ROLL, BUT DON'T LET HIM CATCH YOU CHEATIN'!
FIVE BUCKS ON THE RED!
AROUND AND AROUND SHE GOES AND WHERE SHE STOPS NOBODY KNOWS!
MAYER STOOPS TO PICK UP A FALLEN CHIP--!
THE LITTLE BALL GOES HOME! IT LOOKS LIKE RED! NOPE, IT'S--!
OOPS! DROPPED SOME--? WHA?
AND SEES THAT THE GAME IS FIXED!
BLACK WINS! YOU LOSE, FELL--? WHA-- HEY-- BOUNCERS!
YOU CROOK! I SAW HOW YOU STOPPED THE BALL! I'LL--!
BOUNCERS! STRONG ARM MEN OF THE UNDERWORLD CONVERGE!
YOU CHEAP CROOKS! I'D HOPED TO GET SOMETHING ON YOU! NOW I HAVE IT!


AND
YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO, BOYS!
I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN PLAYING ME AND EVERY DECENT MAN IN TOWN! BUT WE'LL CLOSE YOU FOR THIS!


MINUTES LATER---
OKAY, BOYS--TO THE RIVER WITH 'IM! I'LL PUT THE FINISHING TOUCHES TO 'IM---THERE!
WHY---OHHHH!


LATER--THAT SAME EVENING!
DEFENSE WORKER FOUND SUICIDE!
MYSTERY SURROUNDS MOTIVE OF FRED MAYER'S SUICIDE!


AND SOME DISTANCE AWAY IN THEIR NEW YORK APARTMENT!
H'MM--THERE'S SOMETHING FISHY ABOUT THIS SUICIDE, LAD!
IF YOU THINK THAT WAY--WE SHOULD BE IN THAT TOWN INVESTIGATING IT!


INSTANTLY, THE FIERY DUO FLAME!
WHO DO WE START WITH, TORCH?
MRS. MAYER---THE VICTIM'S WIFE! SHE MAY BE ABLE TO TELL US SOMETHING!

A FEW HOURS LATER---
FLAME OUT, KID! THIS IS IT!
RIGHT, TORCH! LET'S HOPE SHE CAN GIVE US SOMETHING TO WORK ON!
THEY ARE RECEIVED BY MRS. MAYER!
YOU SAY THE CORONER'S VERDICT WAS DEATH BY DROWNING!
YES! HE CLAIMED THERE WERE NO MARKS OF VIOLENCE--- BUT I STILL THINK FRED WAS **MURDERED**!
BY WHOM?
THE GAMBLING CROWD! I BELIEVE HE GOT INFORMATION HE NEEDED TO CLOSE THEM UP! THEY PROBABLY KILLED HIM TO SILENCE HIM! THE RACKETEERS AND THE LAW ARE ONE IN THIS TOWN!
HAVING RECEIVED THE INFORMATION THEY SOUGHT, THE DUO FLAME FROM THE MAYER HOME!
MAYER'S BODY IS STILL IN THE MORGUE! LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT IT!
AWW, TORCH! YOU KNOW I DON'T LIKE MORGUES!
MOMENTS LATER-- THE CITY MORGUE--
I'LL TRY TO ROUSE THE ATTENDANT!
BR-R-R, I DON'T LIKE THIS!
MORGUE
WHAT D'YOU WANT?
WE WANT TO SEE THE BODY OF FRED MAYER!

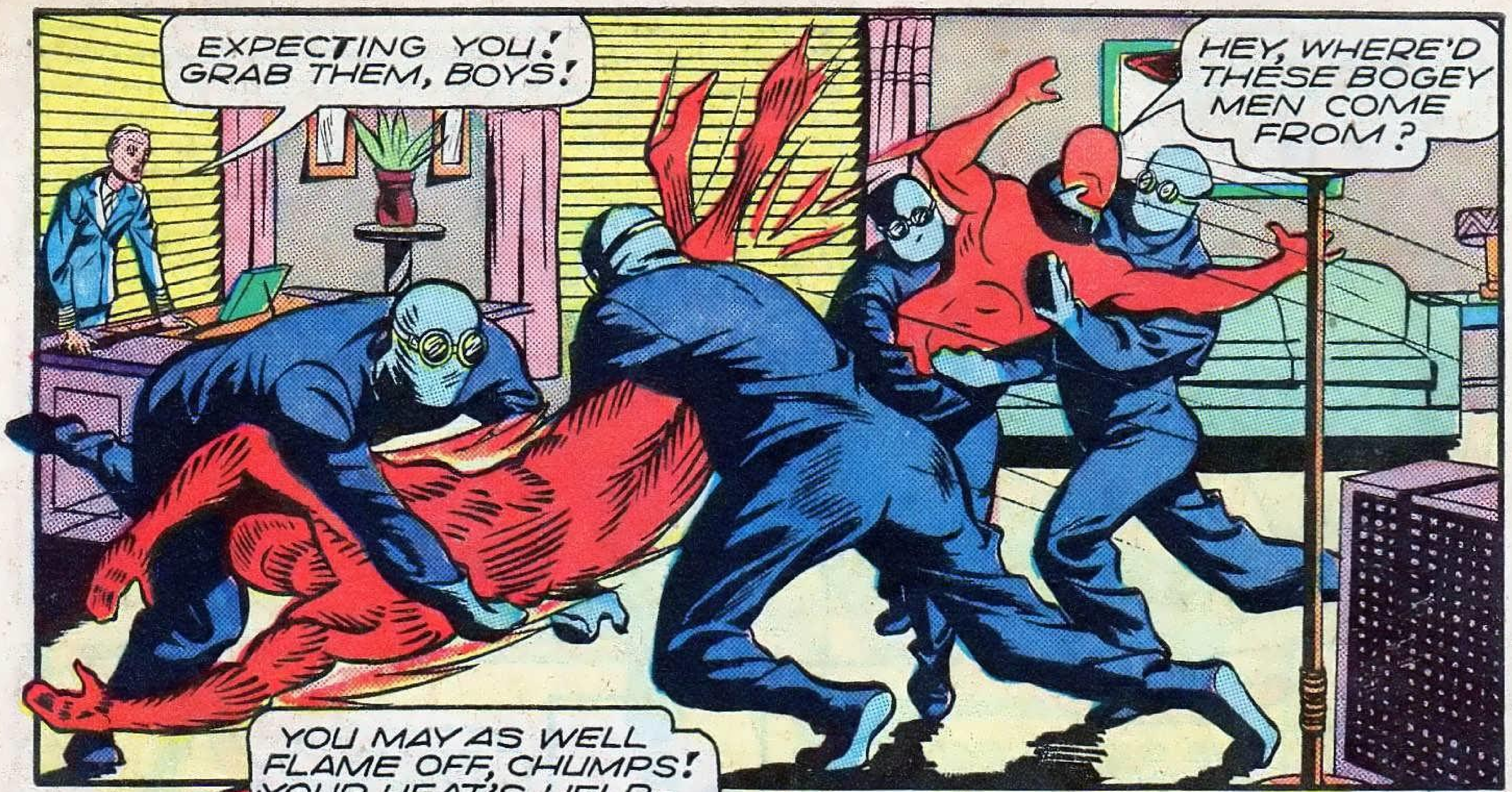
Y'UH DON'T SEE NOTHIN'-- NOW GIT!
HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT?
I DON'T! I'M HERE TO SEE MAYER'S BODY AND I'M GOING TO!
BUT WHAT WILL OLD SOUR-PUSS SAY?
WE'LL TAKE CARE OF HIS OBJECTIONS!
PUSHING THROUGH THE DOOR--!
LOOK OUT! HE'S GOT A GUN--!
YOU--! I THOUGHT I TOLD--- AWKKK!
SORRY, BUT I MUST SEE MAYER'S BODY!
THE DUO QUICKLY EXAMINE MAYER'S BODY!
DO YOU SEE ANYTHING, TORCH?
SOMEONE WAS LYING! HERE'S PROOF THAT MAYER WAS MURDERED!
WHERE? I DON'T SEE ANYTHING!
THAT LITTLE RED MARK IN THE EAR! SOMEONE SLIPPED A SHARP INSTRUMENT THRU HIS EAR INTO HIS BRAIN!
THEN MRS. MAYER WAS RIGHT!
RIGHT! IT'S OBVIOUS HE CAUGHT THEM CHEATING AND THEY KILLED HIM TO KEEP HIM QUIET!

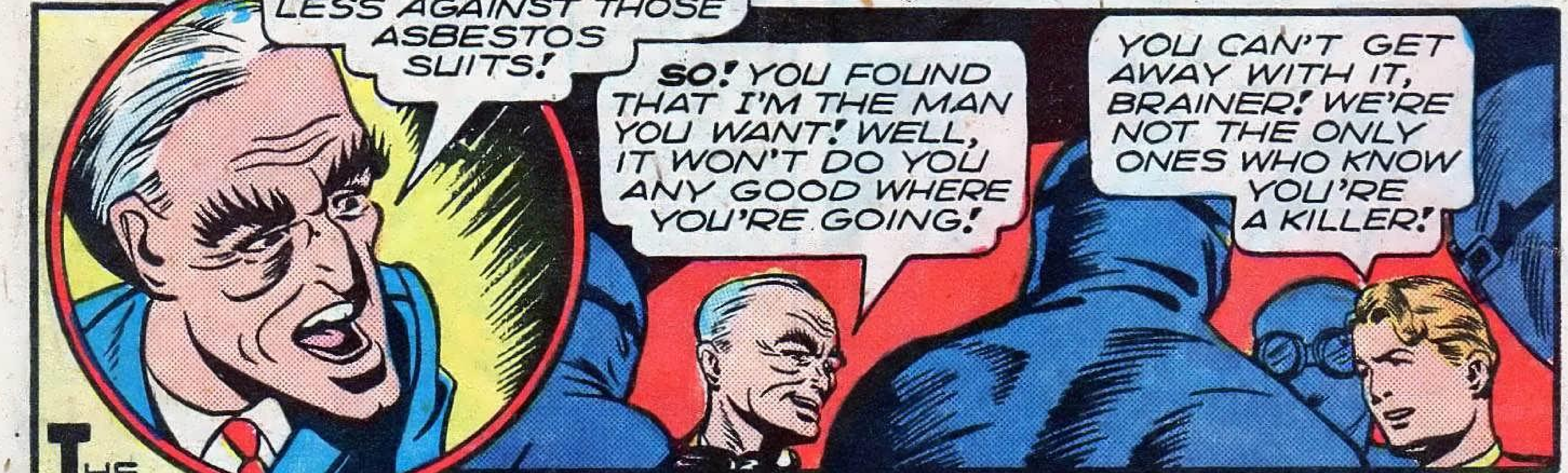
NOW WHAT?
WE'LL PASS OURSELVES OFF AS DEFENSE WORKERS AND CIRCULATE AMONG THE GAMBLING JOINTS! MAYBE WE CAN DIG UP SOMETHING!
MORGUE
SOMETIME LATER----
JOE'S PLACE, EH? WELL, THIS IS AS GOOD AS ANY! LET'S TRY IT!
RIGHT, TORCH!
JOE'S
CLUB CASSINO
RICOS
BINGO
ENTERING---THE DUO PAUSE BEFORE A POKER---!
TORCH-- 'YOU SEE WHAT I SEE?
AND
I SAW YOU GRAB THAT ACE!
WHAT, WHY YOU HAYSEED! BOUNCERS! THROW THIS CRUMB OUT!
THE BOUNCERS APPEAR---
HONEST JOE, EH!
AHHHHHHH

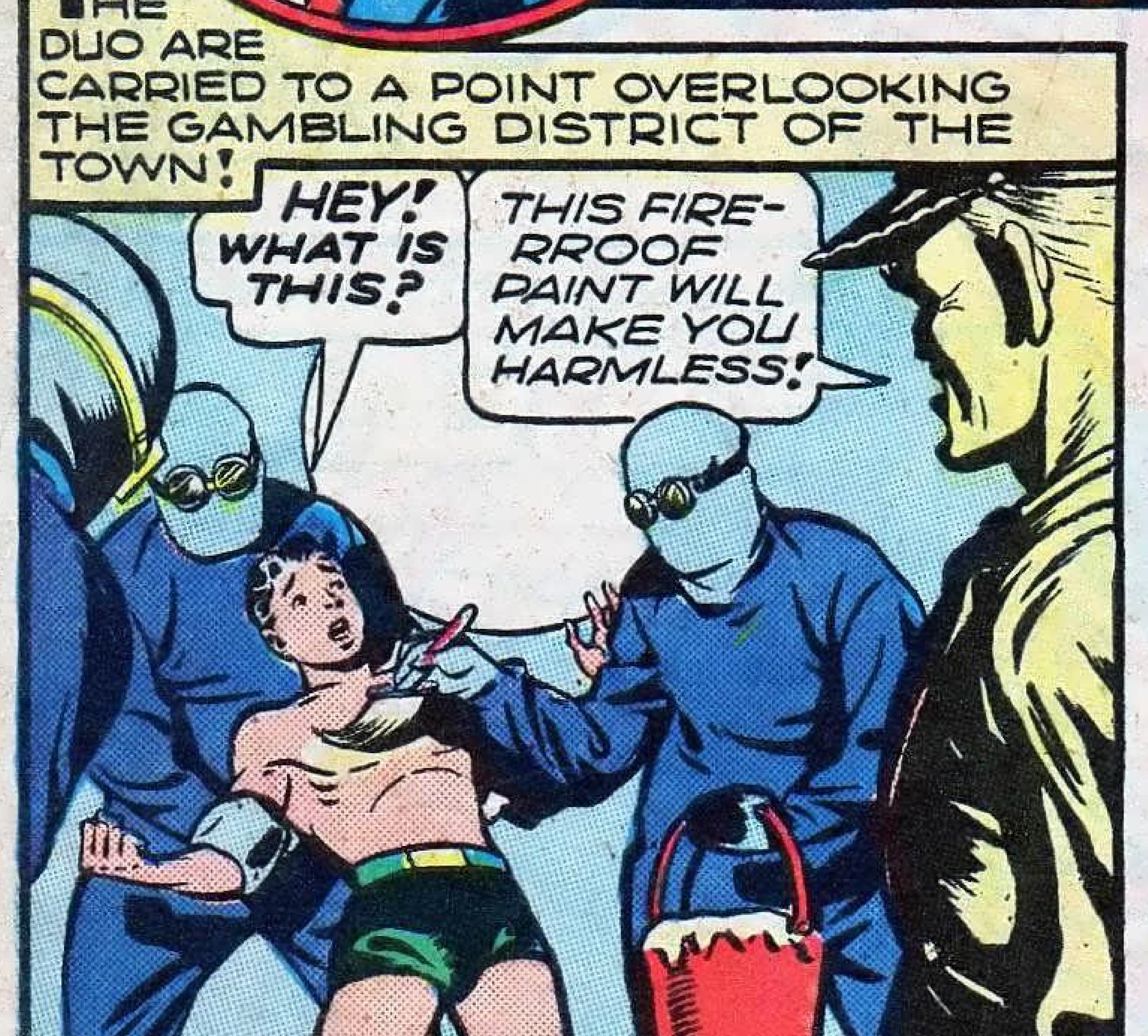
BUT REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVE, AND---!
GIT OUT AND DON'T COME BACK!
I'VE A HUNCH THAT MAYER WAS KILLED BY SOMEONE IN THIS PLACE!
WELL, WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO ABOUT IT?
THE DUO FLAME ON!
PLENTY! FIRST WE'LL VISIT THE POLICE CHIEF!
ARRIVING AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS, THE DUO FLAME OUT---!
I'D LIKE TO SEE CHIEF BRAINER!
FIRST DOOR TO YOUR RIGHT DOWN THE HALL!
SECONDS LATER--!
HMM--- OH--- HELLO, CHIEF BRAINER!
YES--WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
ANSWER A FEW QUESTIONS ABOUT FRED MAYER!
MAYER? THE GUY WHO COMMITTED **SUICIDE**?
NO, CHIEF, HE WAS MURDERED PROBABLY IN JOE'S PLACE!

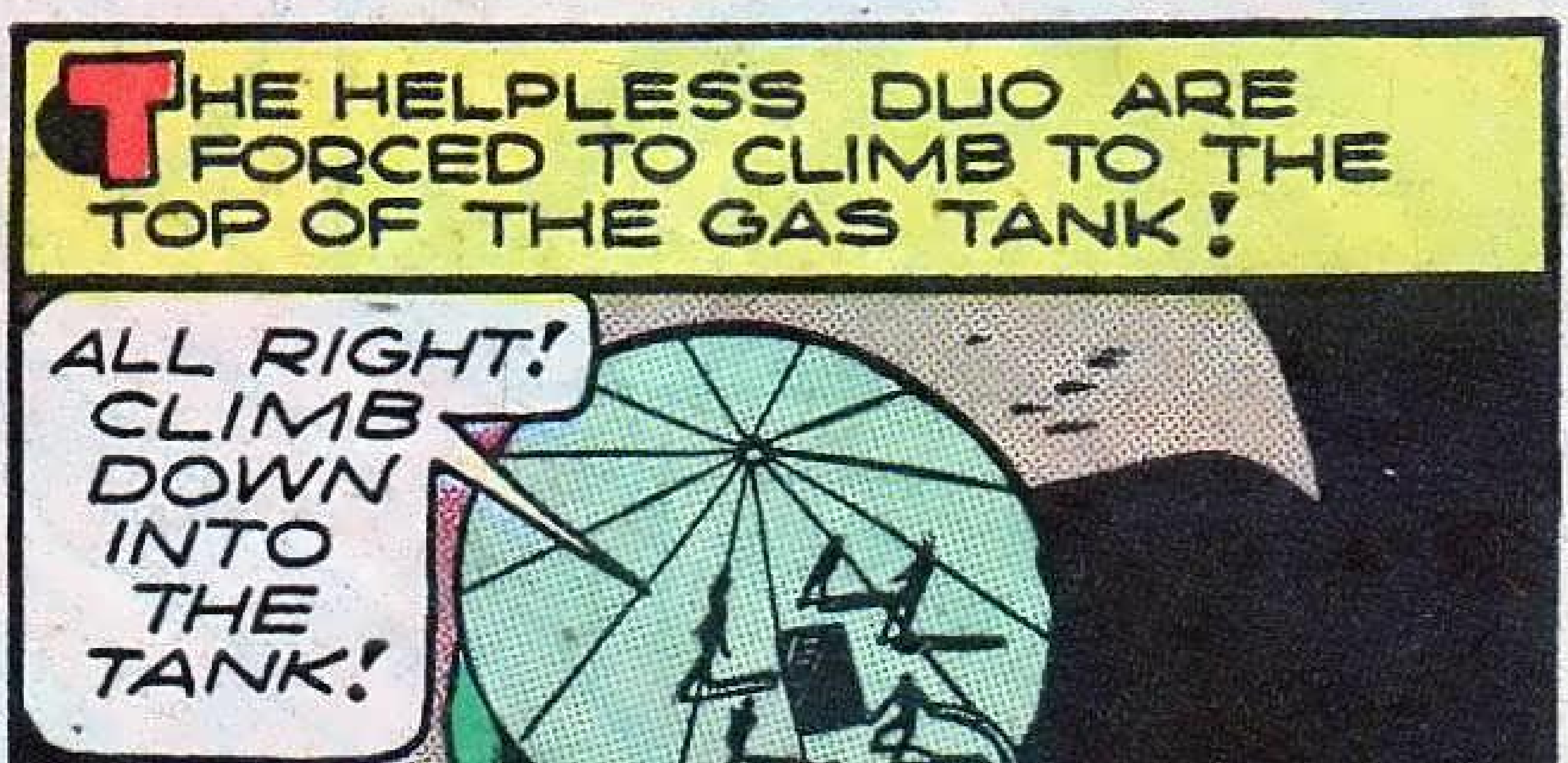
MURDERED? JOES? WE'VE HAD NO MURDERS HERE! AND WE HAVE NO GAMBLING! NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME---
SO YOU WON'T DO ANYTHING? IN THAT CASE WE'LL DO IT FOR YOU! C'MON, TORO!
RIGHT, TORCH!
WELL, THAT'S THAT!
BACK TO JOES! HE DOESN'T KNOW IT, BUT HE'S GOING TO TELL US WHO KILLED MAYER!
POLICE S
MEANWHILE, IN THE BACK OF JOE'S PLACE!
WE SHOULD'A KILLED THOSE HAYSEEDS, BOSS! SUPPOSE THEY TRY TO MAKE TROUBLE!
THEY WON'T! THEY'RE--?
RIGHT HERE!
THE FLAMING DUO POUNCE ON THE THUGS, AND---!
YOU'RE PROBABLY THE SKUNKS WHO KILLED MAYER!
YOW!
NOW, MY FRIENDS! ARE YOU GOING TO TALK OR DO WE TURN ON THE HEAT!
LET ME OUTA HERE!
NO! NO! I'LL TALK!

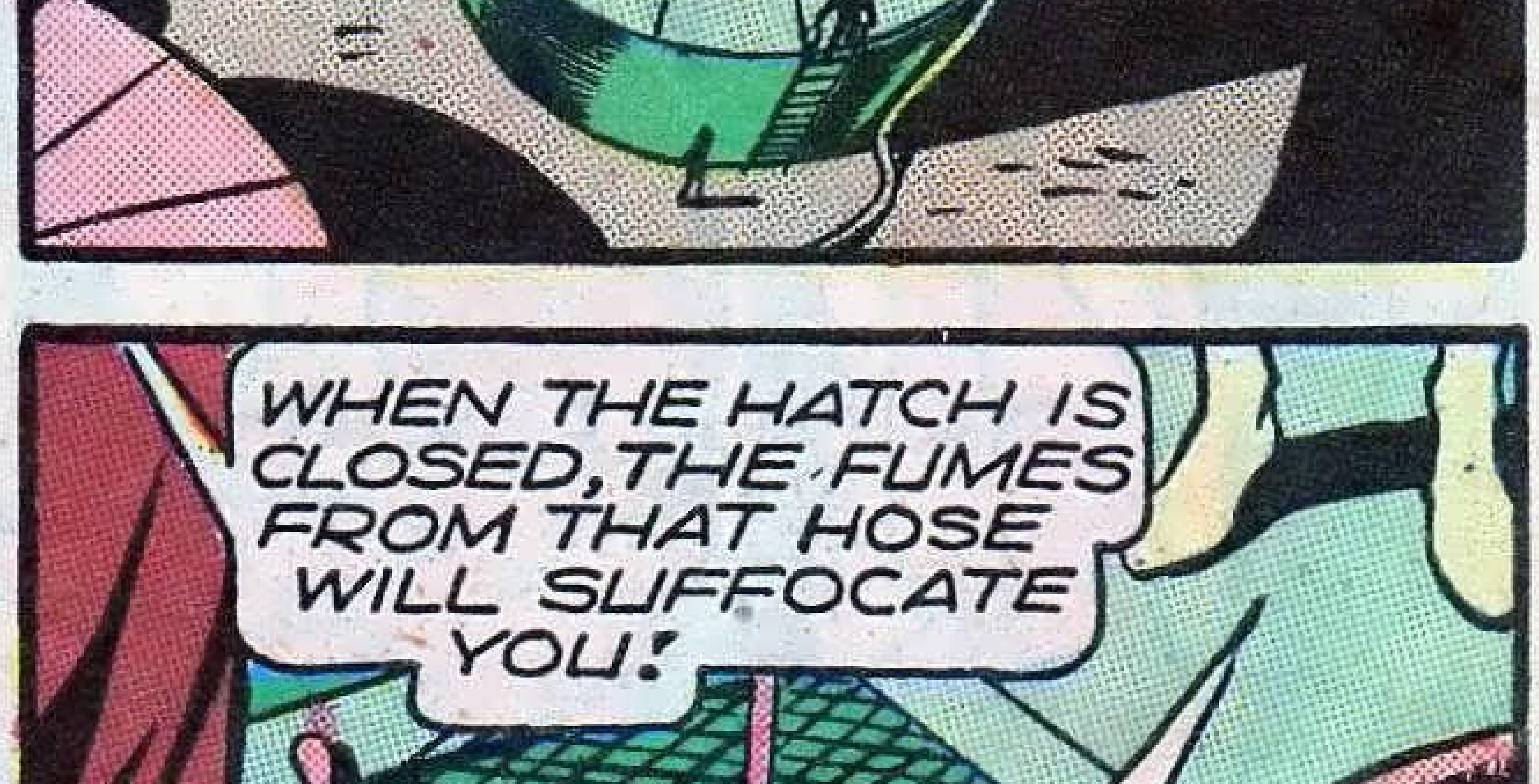
SUDDENLY--!
I KNOW YOU ORDERED MAYER **KILLED**! NOW I WANT TO KNOW WHO'S BEHIND YOU!
I CAN'T TELL! HE'LL K-KILL M-ME!
OKAY, I'LL TALK! IT'S--? **AHHHH**--
GET AFTER THE ONE WHO FIRED THAT SHOT, TORO!
TORO RETURNS EMPTY-HANDED!
HE GOT CLEAN AWAY! HOW ABOUT THESE SKUNKS? DO THEY KNOW ANYTHING?
NO! BUT I THINK I DO!
THE COUNTY'S DISTRICT ATTORNEY IS NOTIFIED! THEN THE FIERY CRIME CHASERS STREAK OFF!
DO YOU KNOW WHO KILLED THIS CHISLER, TORCH?
JOE'S
THE SAME PERSON WHO IS BEHIND THIS RACKET, TORO! CHIEF BRAINER! HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO KNEW WHERE WE WERE GOING!
MOMENTS LATER, THE DUO ARRIVE AT THEIR DESTINATION!
POLICE
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
TURN HIM OVER TO THE D.A.--AND SMASH HIS VICIOUS RACKET!
FLAMING INTO BRAINER'S OFFICE!!
HELLO!
HE DOESN'T SEEM A BIT SURPRISED!
NOT A BIT! YOU SEE--I'VE BEEN--!
KUOWIEM


EXPECTING YOU! GRAB THEM, BOYS!
HEY, WHERE'D THESE BOGEY MEN COME FROM?


YOU MAY AS WELL FLAME OFF, CHUMPS! YOUR HEAT'S HELPLESS AGAINST THOSE ASBESTOS SUITS!
SO! YOU FOUND THAT I'M THE MAN YOU WANT! WELL, IT WON'T DO YOU ANY GOOD WHERE YOU'RE GOING!
YOU CAN'T GET AWAY WITH IT, BRAINER! WE'RE NOT THE ONLY ONES WHO KNOW YOU'RE A KILLER!


THE DUO ARE CARRIED TO A POINT OVERLOOKING THE GAMBLING DISTRICT OF THE TOWN!
HEY! WHAT IS THIS?
THIS FIRE-RROOF PAINT WILL MAKE YOU HARMLESS!


THE HELPLESS DUO ARE FORCED TO CLIMB TO THE TOP OF THE GAS TANK!
ALL RIGHT! CLIMB DOWN INTO THE TANK!


WHEN THE HATCH IS CLOSED, THE FUMES FROM THAT HOSE WILL SUFFOCATE YOU!
BROTHER! YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS!

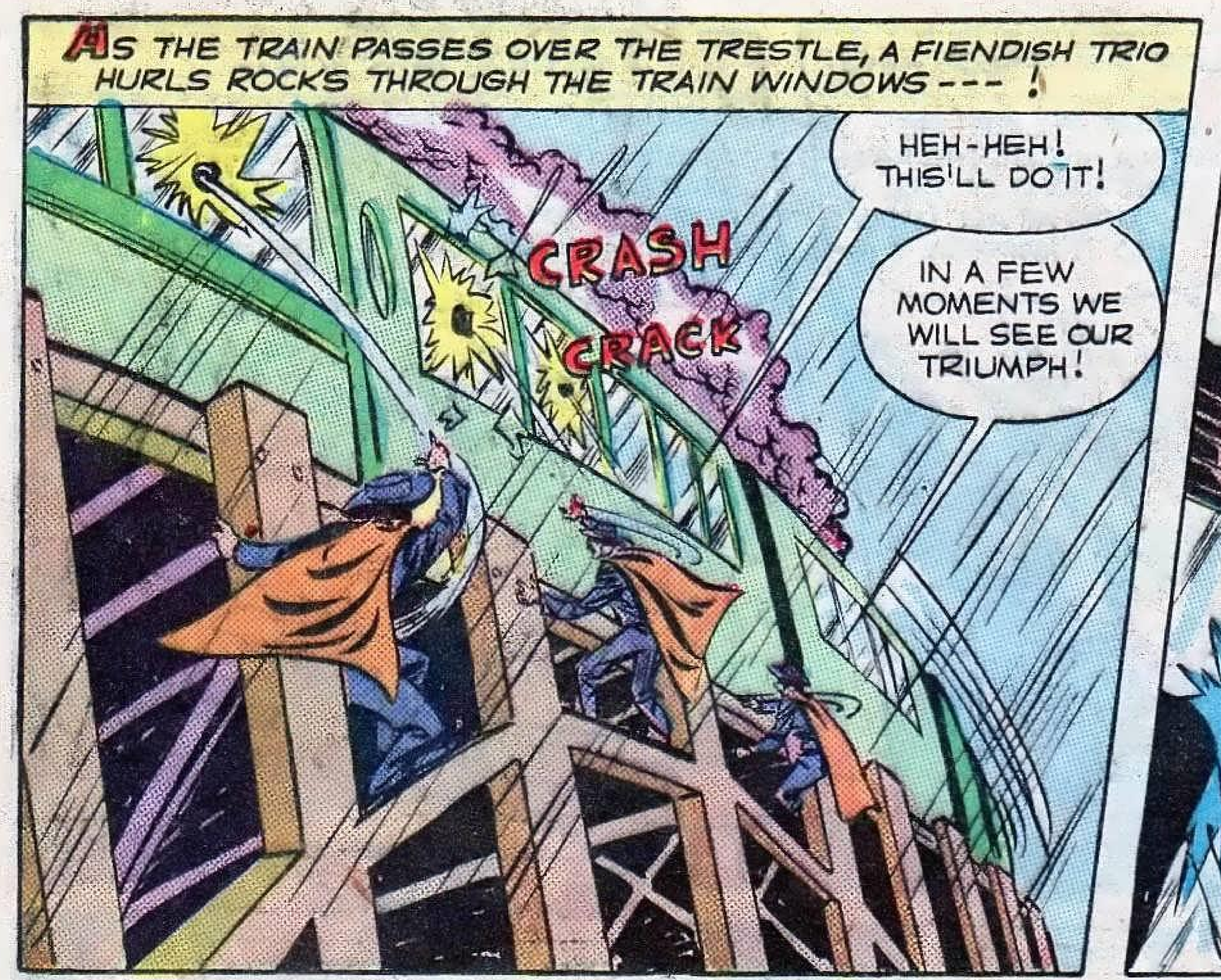
I'LL WORRY ABOUT **THAT!** WHILE YOU DIE HERE, WE'LL VISIT MRS. MAYER!
AND LEAVE NO WITNESS TO YOUR VILLAINY! BUT IT WILL CATCH UP WITH YOU!
LOCKING THE ESCAPE HATCH, THE THUGS LEAVE THE DUO TO THEIR FATE!
WHAT A-MESS!
IT COULD BE WORSE, KID! I'VE GOT AN IDEA HOW TO GET OUT OF THIS!
TAKING THE END OF THE HOSE IN HIS MOUTH -- TORCH DRAWS IN DEEPLY!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
GOING TO SYPHON GAS FROM THE OTHER TANK! WE'LL BE ABLE TO WASH THIS PAINT OFF!
I'M GLAD TO GET RID OF THIS! NOW WE CAN FLAME!
YES, BUT WHEN WE DO, THE FUMES IN HERE WILL **EXPLODE!** SO BE SURE TO FLAME EXACTLY WITH ME!
THE DUO FLAME AND---
GOOD TIMING, TORO!
WHEW--! THERE GOES THE OTHER TANK!-- AND, TORCH--**LOOK!**

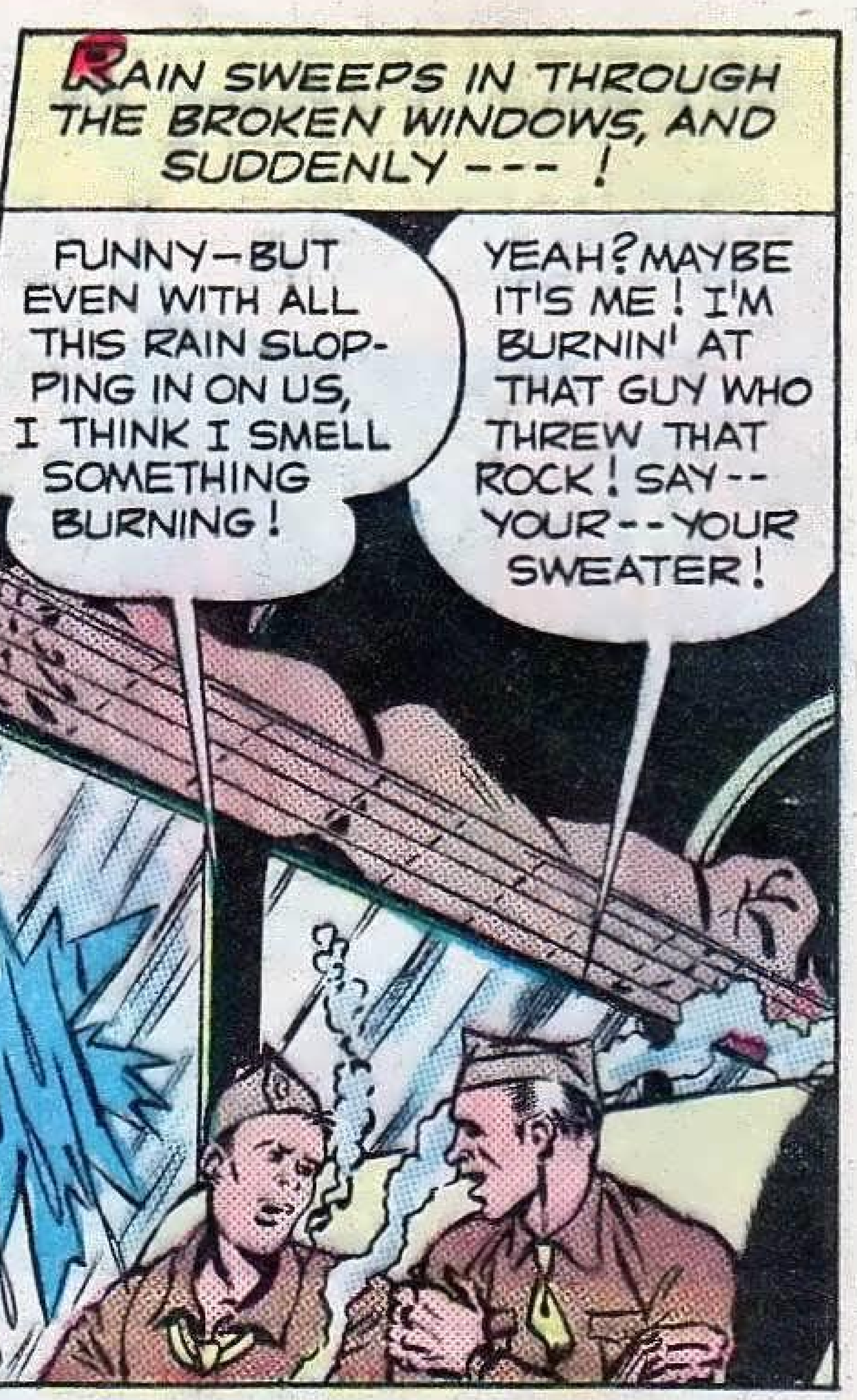
THE BURNING OIL SPREADS LIKE THUNDER TO THE GAMBLING HOUSES!
THAT ENDS THE EVIL IN THIS TOWN, KID!
RICO'S
JOE'S
EXCEPT FOR BRAINER, AND HIS TIME IS SHORT!
MEANWHILE--- CHIEF BRAINER!
WE'RE ALMOST TO THE MAYER PLACE NOW!
GOOD-- WE'LL--? THE TORCH! STEP ON IT--!
BUT AS THE CAR GATHERS SPEED!
BANG
THIS'LL SLOW 'EM UP!
AND-
YAAHHHH--
WELL, TORO! THAT DOES END THE EVIL IN THIS TOWN!
CRASH!
LATER, AT THE MAYER HOME, THE COUNTY'S DISTRICT ATTORNEY AND A GROUP OF ITS CITIZENS ARE GATHERED!
THANKS, TORCH! WE ROUNDED UP THE OTHER CROOKS!
I'LL NEVER FORGET YOU FOR CARRYING ON FRED'S WORK AND RIDDING THE TOWN OF THOSE CROOKS!
WE'RE ALWAYS GLAD TO HELP!
THE END

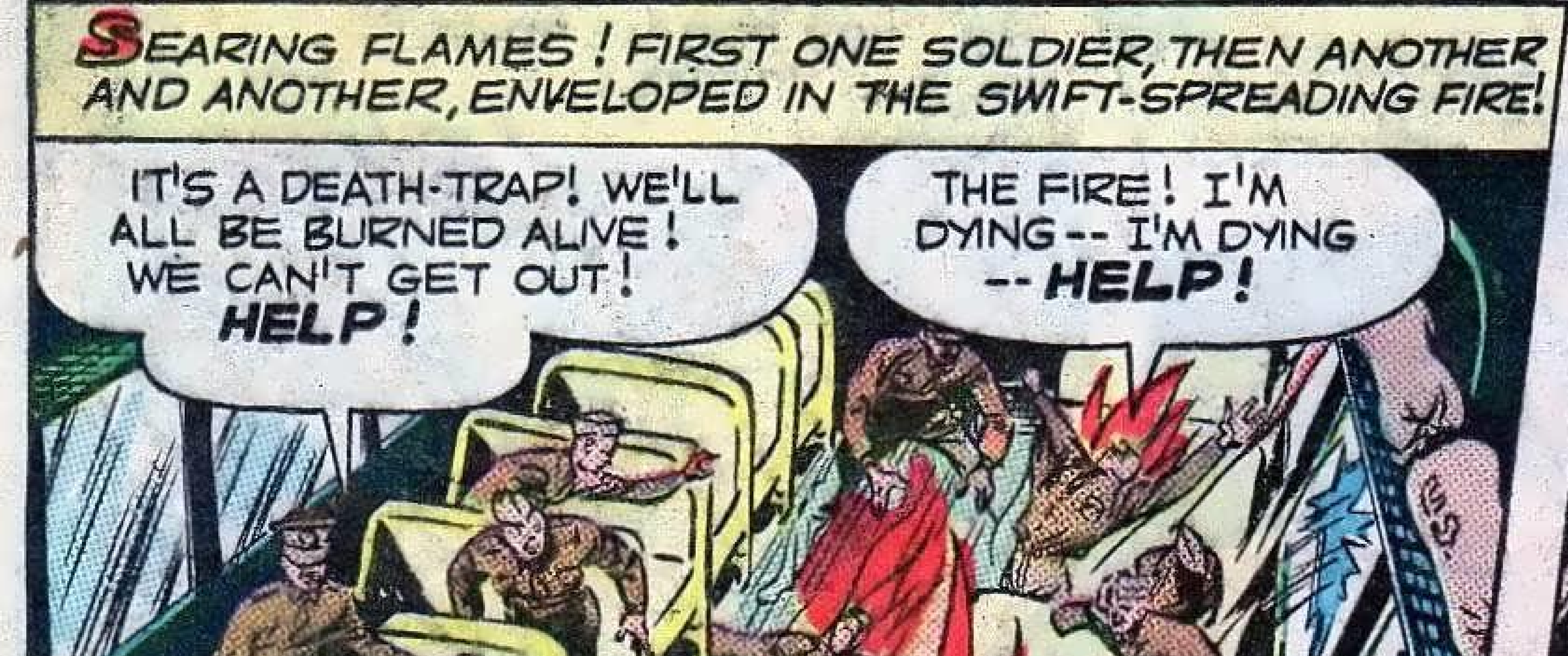
SUB-MARINER
"HUMAN BOMBS of HORROR!"
U.S. ARMY
MEN MAY BE TALKING, LAUGHING—LITTLE KNOWING THAT THEY ARE DOOMED TO THE DEVOURING FLAME! FIRE BURSTS SUDDENLY FROM THEM, ENVELOPING THEM IN AGONY AND THEN-- DEATH! WATER CANNOT PUT OUT THE HUMAN BOMBS! THE FLAMES SPREAD, CARRYING PANIC AND DEVASTATION! WHAT IS THE GHASTLY SECRET OF FIRE THAT SPRINGS FROM LIVING MEN? ONLY SUB-MARINER DARES TO ASK AS HE COMBATS THE
"HUMAN BOMBS OF HORROR!"

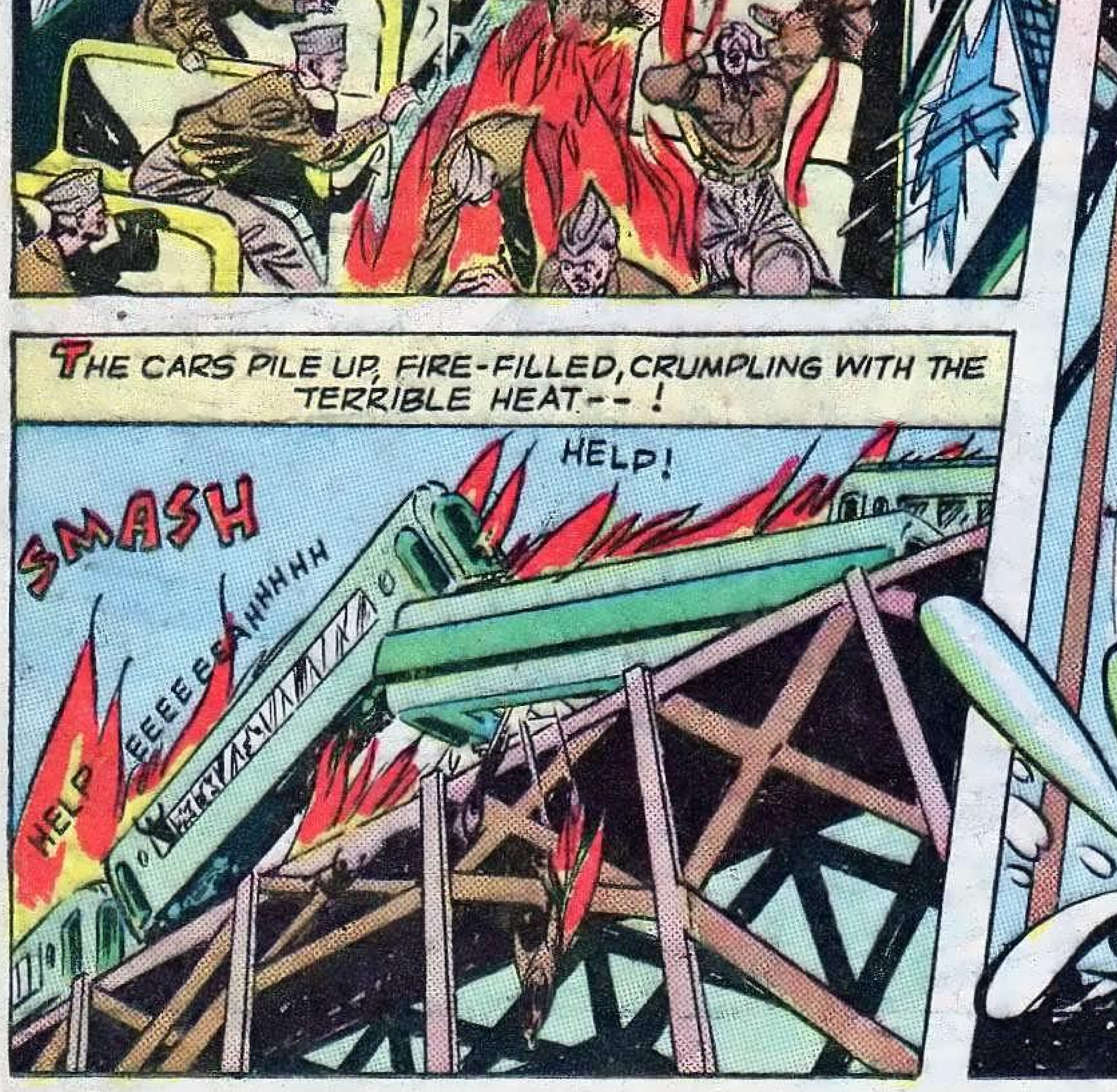
[redacted]
A TORRENTIAL RAINSTORM SWEEPS THE NIGHT! MEANWHILE, SWING-SHIFT WORKERS AT THE VICTORY WAR PLANT ARE PRODUCING POWERFUL EXPLOSIVES!
INSIDE THE PLANT, A WORKER GOES TO CLOSE A WINDOW!
WOW! SURE IS RAINING HARD OUT THERE! LOOKS LIKE IT MIGHT LAST FOR DAYS!
BUT BEFORE THE MAN CAN SHUT OUT THE RAIN, THE WATER SPLASHES ON HIS CLOTHING, AND--!
YEEEOW! FIRE--FIRE! I'M BURNING! HELP!
THE WATER ISN'T DOING ANY GOOD! IF THE FLAMES REACH THE POWDER, WE'LL ALL BE KILLED!
DEADLY TONGUES OF DEVOURING HEAT, THE FLAMES SPREAD SWIFTLY! THEN, AS THEY REACH THE EXPLOSIVES!
BOOM
MEANWHILE, TWO SAILORS ARE FIGHTING A FEW MILES AWAY...!
THOUGHT YOU COULD STEAL MY GIRL, DID YOU? TAKE THAT!
CAN I HELP IT IF I GOT MORE CHARM? OOF!
AS THE RAIN SOAKS THROUGH THE SAILOR'S SHOES, HIS SOCKS BURST INTO FLAMES!

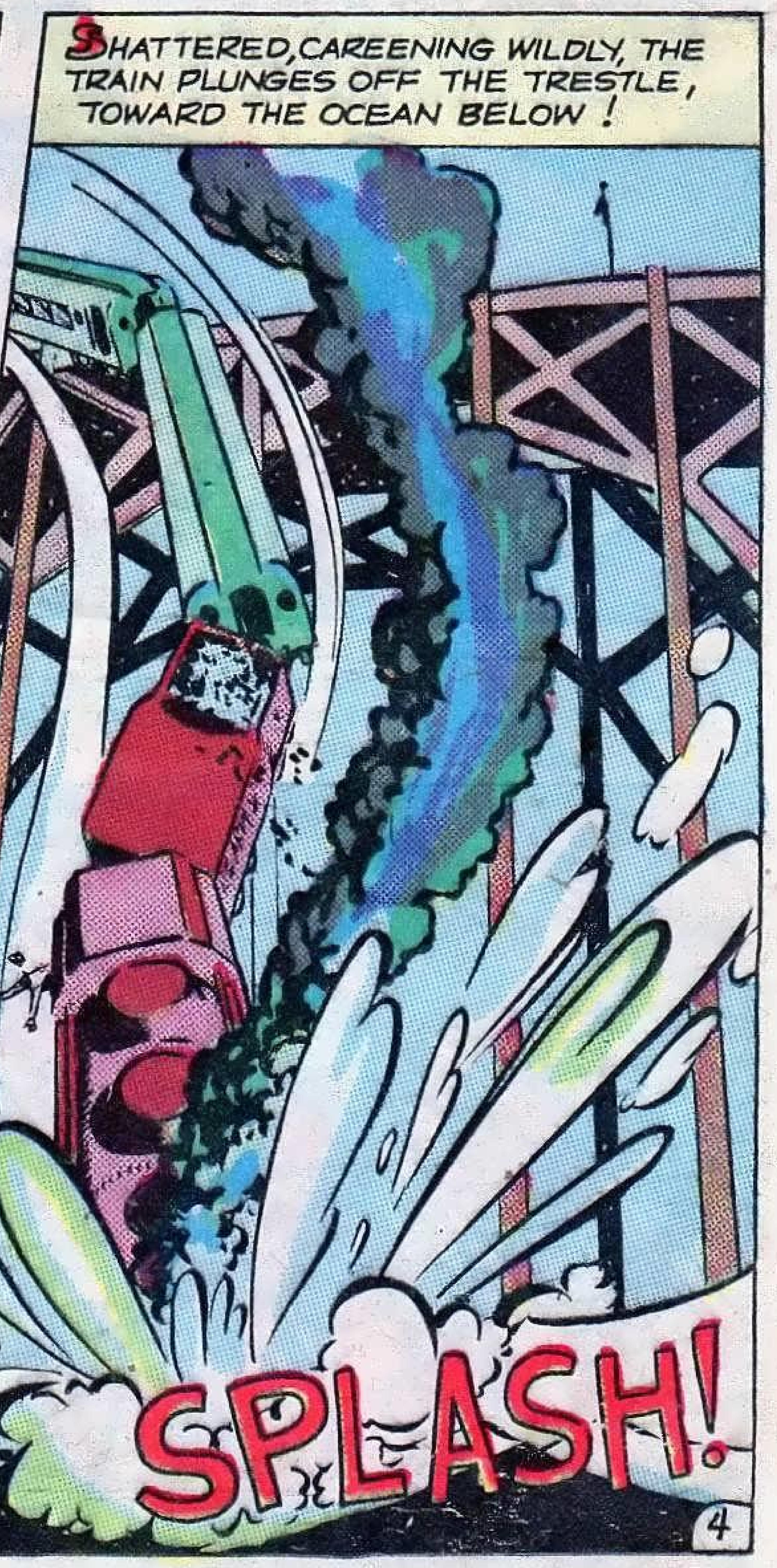
IN A MOMENT, THE FLAMES ENVELOP THE SAILOR---!
SAMMY! I DIDN'T DO IT --I DIDN'T EVEN MEAN WHAT I SAID! SAMMY!
CALL THE POLICE! GET AN AMBULANCE! THE RAIN ISN'T PUTTING OUT THE FLAMES AT ALL! HOW DID IT HAPPEN?
THE NEXT MORNING...
TERRIBLE! HORRIBLE! IMAGINE IT! MEN JUST STARTING TO BURN--FOR NO APPARENT REASON! AND NOT A CLUE TO GO ON!
ALL THESE CATASTROPHES OCCURRED NEAR NEW YORK CITY! THAT'S SOME-THING OF A CLUE, ANYWAY!
SUB-MARINER, THESE HORRIBLE THINGS MUST HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY SUICIDE SABOTEURS--MEN WHO SET THEMSELVES ON FIRE TO WRECK THE WAR PLANTS!
PERHAPS!
I WONDER! BETTER GET TO NEW YORK!
FIRE
AN HOUR LATER...
I'LL FOLLOW THE COAST LINE! THIS IS THE QUICKEST WAY FOR ME TO GET THERE!
SUB-MARINER SWIMS WITH INCREDIBLE SPEED! SOON, IN THE OCEAN OFF THE JERSEY COAST...
AN IMPORTANT TROOP TRAIN HEADED FOR NEW YORK WAS SCHEDULED TO PASS HERE ABOUT NOW! THAT MUST BE IT!


AS THE TRAIN PASSES OVER THE TRESTLE, A FIENDISH TRIO HURLS ROCKS THROUGH THE TRAIN WINDOWS --- !
HEH-HEH! THIS'LL DO IT!
IN A FEW MOMENTS WE WILL SEE OUR TRIUMPH!
CRASH
CRACK


RAIN SWEEPS IN THROUGH THE BROKEN WINDOWS, AND SUDDENLY --- !
FUNNY—BUT EVEN WITH ALL THIS RAIN SLOPPING IN ON US, I THINK I SMELL SOMETHING BURNING!
YEAH? MAYBE IT'S ME! I'M BURNIN' AT THAT GUY WHO THREW THAT ROCK! SAY -- YOUR -- YOUR SWEATER!


SEARING FLAMES! FIRST ONE SOLDIER, THEN ANOTHER AND ANOTHER, ENVELOPED IN THE SWIFT-SPREADING FIRE!
IT'S A DEATH-TRAP! WE'LL ALL BE BURNED ALIVE! WE CAN'T GET OUT! **HELP!**
THE FIRE! I'M DYING -- I'M DYING -- **HELP!**

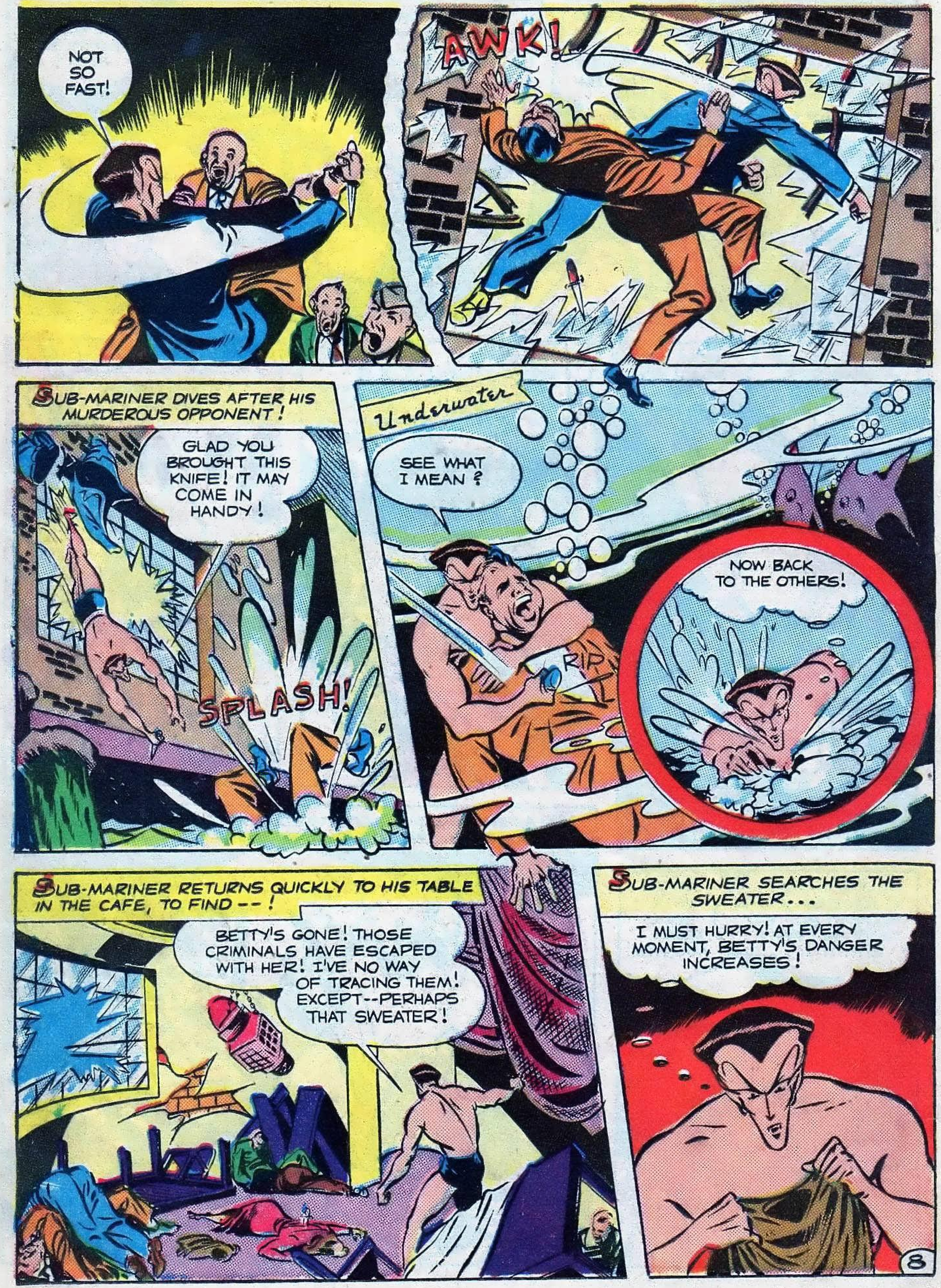

THE CARS PILE UP, FIRE-FILLED, CRUMPLING WITH THE TERRIBLE HEAT -- !
HELP!
SMASH
EEEEEEEAHHHHH
HELP


SHATTERED, CAREENING WILDLY, THE TRAIN PLUNGES OFF THE TRESTLE, TOWARD THE OCEAN BELOW!

IN THE WATER, SUB-MARINER HURTLES DOWN TOWARD THE SIZZLING, STILL-FLAMING WRECK!
PERHAPS I CAN SAVE THE LIVES OF A FEW NOT ALREADY CONSUMED BY THOSE TERRIBLE FLAMES!
THROUGH A BROKEN WINDOW, SUB-MARINER PULLS OUT TWO UN-CONSCIOUS SOLDIERS!
THESE SEEM TO BE THE ONLY TWO WHO WERE UNTOUCHED BY THE FLAMES!
MUST GET THEM TO SHORE!
BUT AS SUB-MARINER PULLS HIS RESCUED MEN ON SHORE, THE THREE FIENDS LEAP ON HIM!
IT'S SUB-MARINER! GET HIM!
WITH WELL-AIMED, CRUSHING BLOWS, SUB-MARINER DEFEATS TWO OF HIS OPPONENTS
THIS WILL TAKE CARE OF HIM!
CRASH!
SUDDENLY HIS ANTAGONIST HURLS A BLANKET OVER SUB-MARINER'S HEAD! BUT AS HE TOPPLES TOWARD THE WATER, HE PULLS THE FIEND WITH HIM---!
ALL RIGHT-- BUT IF I GO, YOU GO TOO!
BUT AS THEY HIT THE WATER---!
THE BLANKET! IT'S ON FIRE!
HEH-HEH!
5

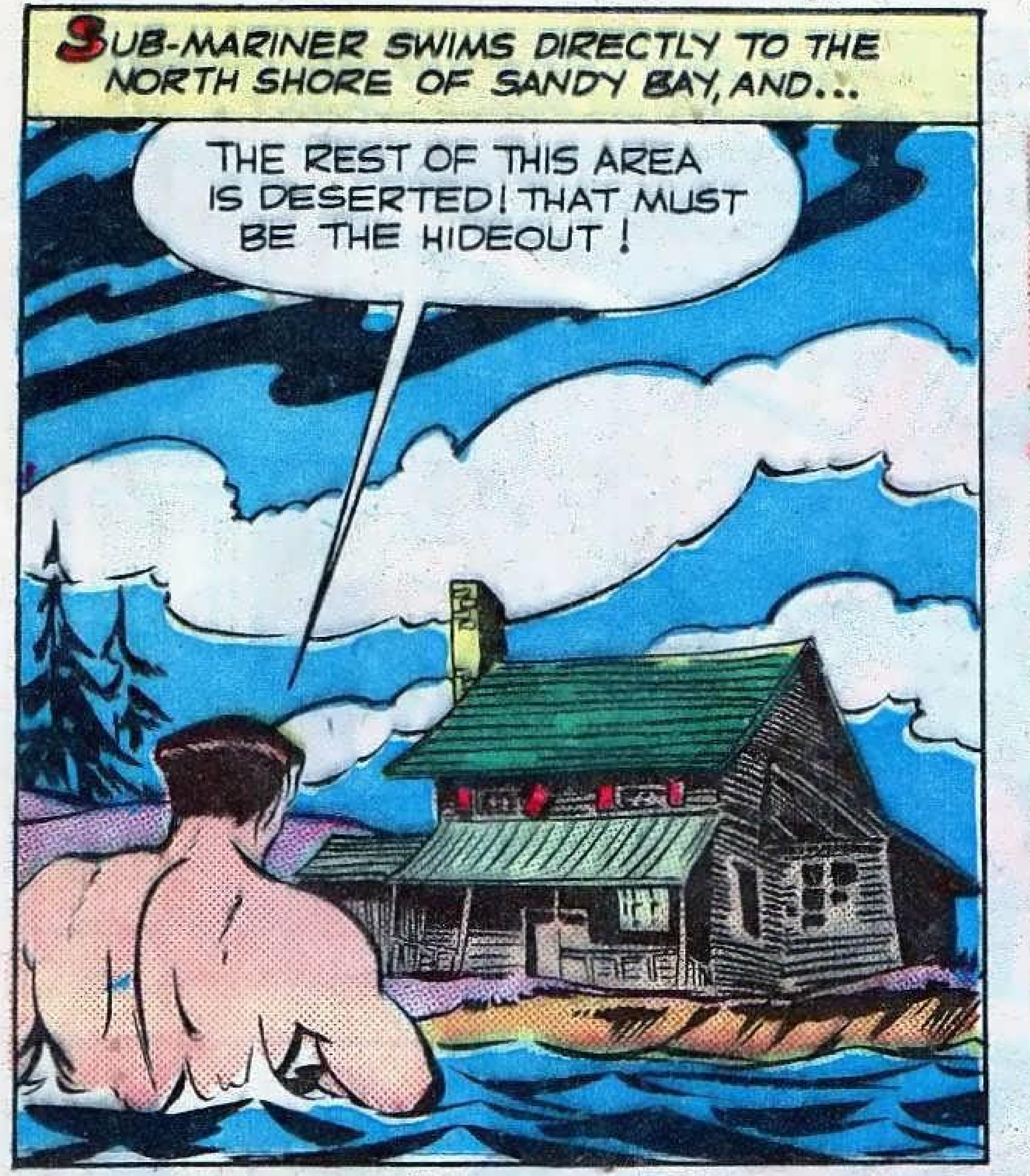
WITH ONE SWIFT MOVEMENT —
NO YOU DON'T!
I KNOW WHAT THESE FIRES ARE ALL ABOUT NOW!
CRACK!
ON THE OCEAN SURFACE, SUB-MARINER SEES..
GREAT GARFISH! A TROOP SHIP-- BURNING!
...AND SWIMS SWIFTLY TOWARD IT...
IF ONLY THEY CAN GET THE FIRE UNDER CONTROL! I MUST GET TO THE BOTTOM OF ALL THIS... QUICKLY!
IN A FEW MOMENTS
THEY'RE MANAGING THE FLAMES ALL RIGHT! ALL I HAVE TO DO IS--
And Then..
I'M SUB-MARINER! WHERE DID THIS FIRE START?
WE'VE GOT IT UNDER CONTROL NOW, THANK HEAVENS! IT STARTED IN NUMBER SIX, TOM SMITH'S CABIN!
SUB-MARINER BURSTS INTO THE CHARRED CABIN
TOM, THEY TOLD ME THE FIRE STARTED IN HERE! DID IT START WITH ANY OF YOUR CLOTHING?
SUB-MARINER! WHY-- YES, SIR, IT DID! A SWEATER THAT WAS GIVEN TO ME LAST NIGHT--IT SUDDENLY STARTED BLAZING!
WHO GAVE YOU THAT SWEATER?
IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL GIRL, SIR! SHE WAS THE MOST WONDERFUL GIRL--SHE JUST CAME OVER TO MY TABLE AND SAID "WEAR THIS SWEATER TO REMEMBER ME BY!"

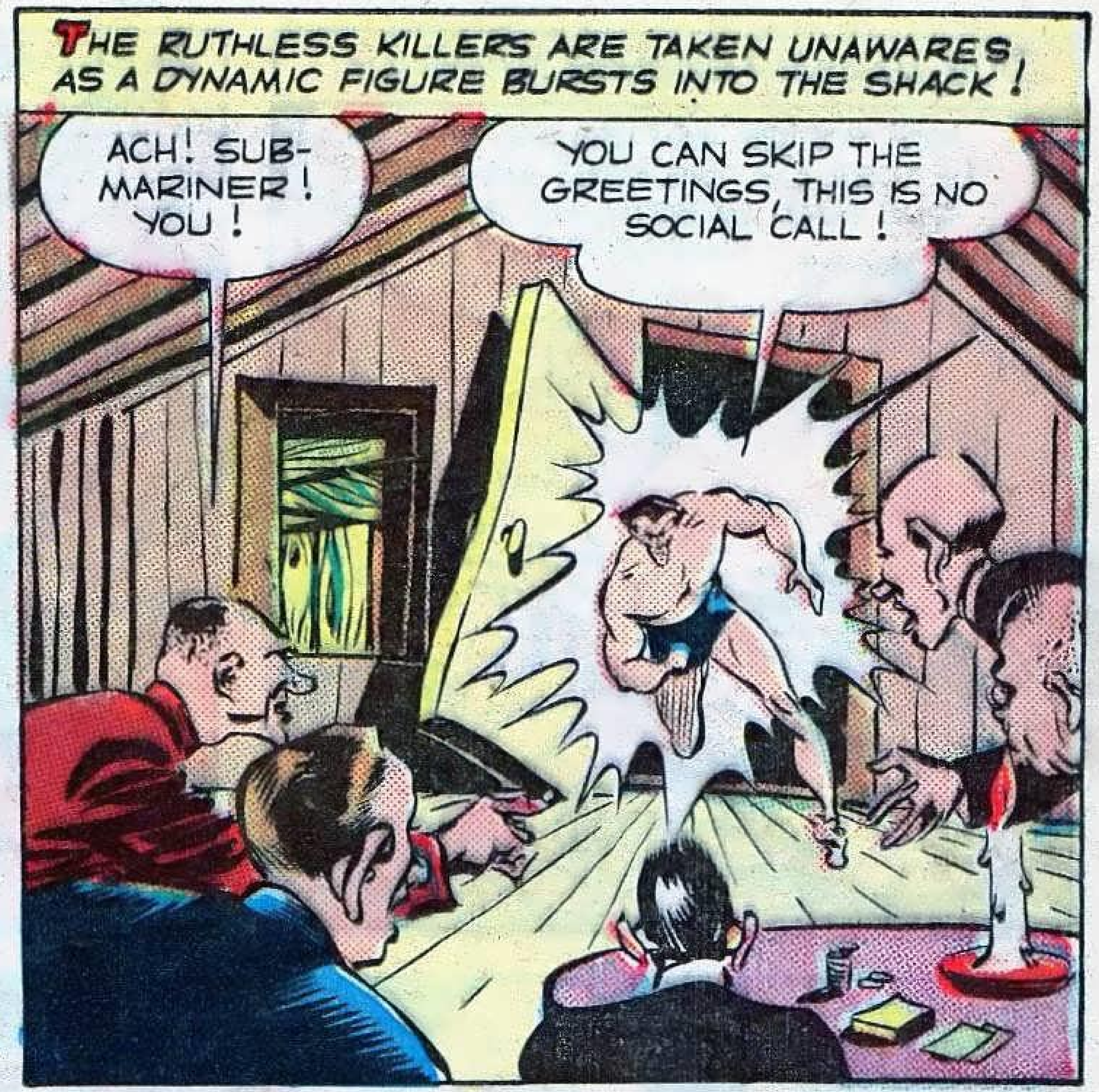
IT WAS AT THE WATERFRONT CAFE, SIR! I'D NEVER SEEN HER BEFORE, SO IT SURE WAS NICE OF HER TO GIVE ME A SWEATER!
MAYBE NOT SO NICE, TOM! YOU AND I ARE GOING THERE TONIGHT, TO FIND OUT!
THAT EVENING WITH BETTY DEAN...
I'M GLAD YOU HAD ME COME ALONG, EVEN IF IT WAS ONLY SO YOU WOULDN'T LOOK SUSPICIOUS, NOT HAVING A GIRL HERE WITH THIS SOLDIER!
SUB-MARINER! OVER THERE! THAT'S THE ONE!
HERE, SAILOR --WEAR THIS SWEATER TO REMEMBER ME BY!
BOY! I SURE WILL! GOSH!
DROP THAT SWEATER! NOW TELL ME — WHO PUT YOU UP TO THIS!
UH -- SUB-MARINER! I'LL T-TELL YOU-- IT'S -- IT'S--
BUT SUDDENLY ---!
A KNIFE! FROM THE DOORWAY!
IN A FEW MOMENTS, A CONFUSED BAR-ROOM BRAWL! LIKE AN AVENGING WHIRLWIND, SUB-MARINER BATTLES HIS OPPONENTS!
KILLING IS EASY TO YOU, EVEN KILLING WOMEN! BUT YOU CAN'T GET AWAY WITH IT!
WE'RE WITH YOU, SUB-MARINER!

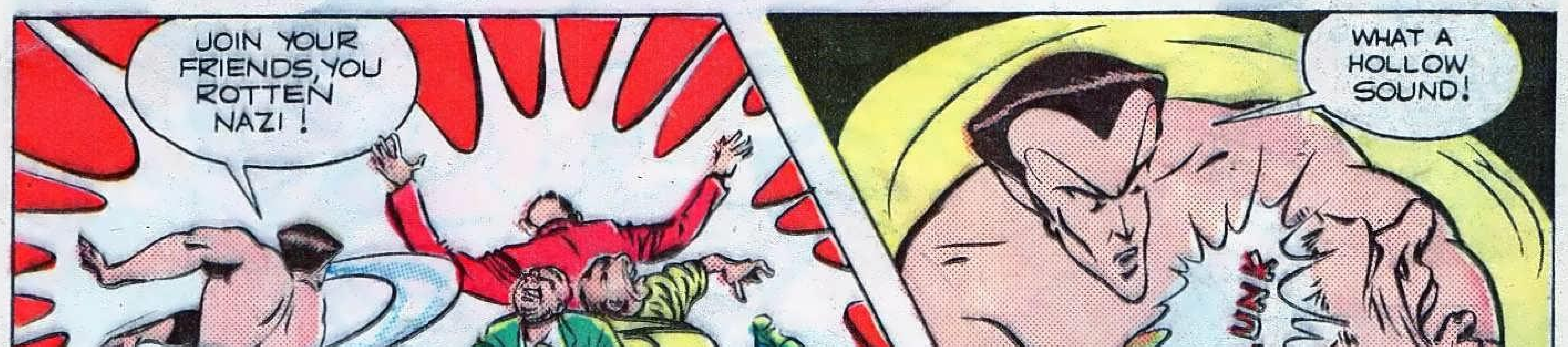

NOT SO FAST!
AWK!
SUB-MARINER DIVES AFTER HIS MURDEROUS OPPONENT!
GLAD YOU BROUGHT THIS KNIFE! IT MAY COME IN HANDY!
SPLASH!
Underwater
SEE WHAT I MEAN?
RIP
NOW BACK TO THE OTHERS!
SUB-MARINER RETURNS QUICKLY TO HIS TABLE IN THE CAFE, TO FIND--!
BETTY'S GONE! THOSE CRIMINALS HAVE ESCAPED WITH HER! I'VE NO WAY OF TRACING THEM! EXCEPT--PERHAPS THAT SWEATER!
SUB-MARINER SEARCHES THE SWEATER...
I MUST HURRY! AT EVERY MOMENT, BETTY'S DANGER INCREASES!

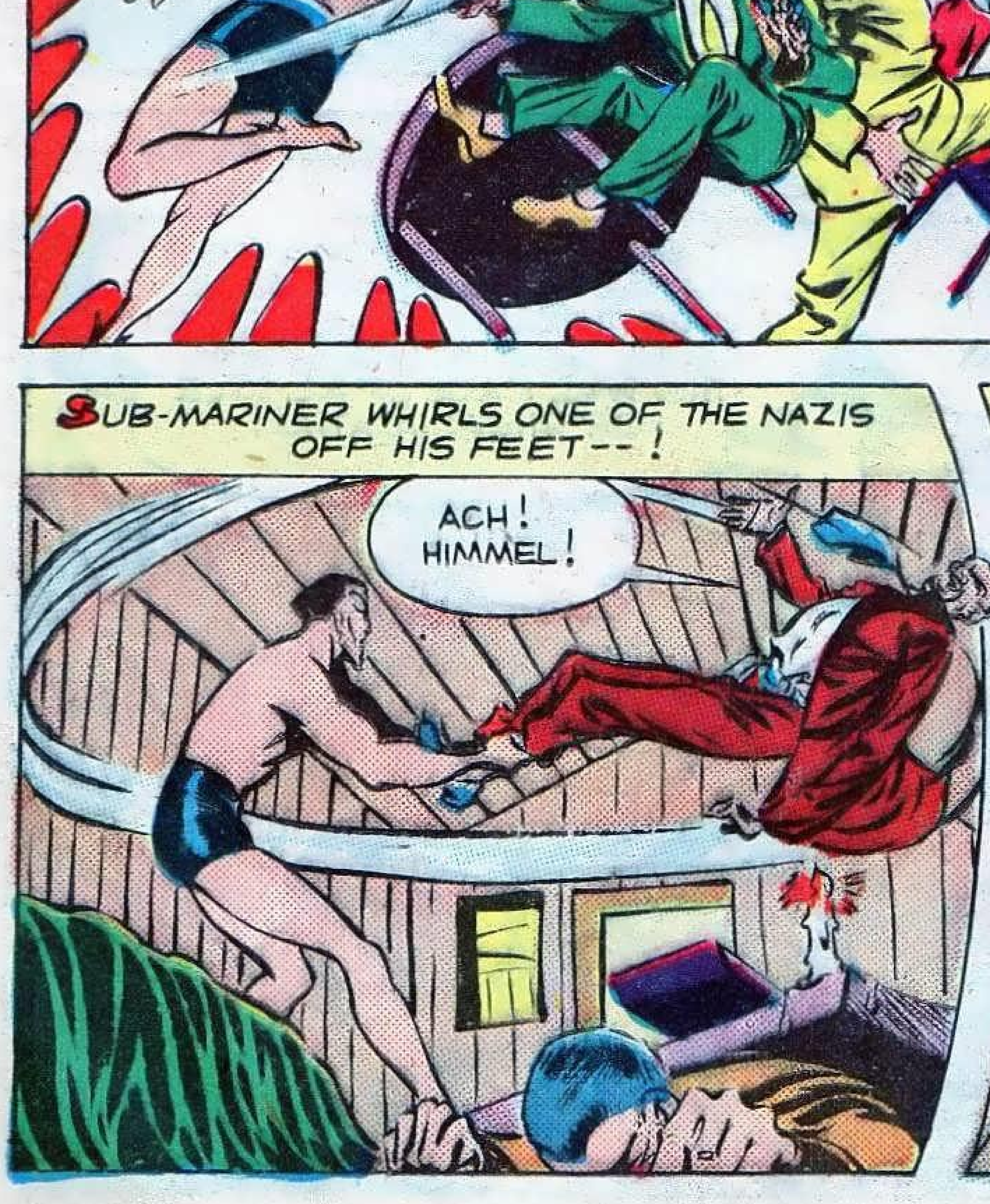
SOME PAPER, FOLDED INSIDE THE SWEATER— IT'S AN ADVERTISING LEAFLET FOR THE AJAX PHARMACY!
Remember the AJAX Pharmacy
It's AS GOOD AS THE Best- and Better THAN THE REST...
NOW I UNDERSTAND HOW THOSE FIENDS MANAGED THEIR DIRTY WORK! IF I COULD ONLY GET TO BETTY RIGHT AWAY— BUT FIRST I MUST GO TO THE AJAX PHARMACY!
IN A FEW MOMENTS, SUB-MARINER REACHES THE AJAX PHARMACY...
HAVE YOU EVER SEEN THIS SWEATER BEFORE?
WHY—WHY YES! I GAVE IT A CHEMICAL TREATMENT LAST WEEK FOR A BAND OF MEN WHO SAID THEY WERE TRAVELING MAGICIANS!
YOU IMPREGNATED THIS SWEATER WITH WHITE METALLIC SODIUM! THE CHEMICAL COMBINES WITH HYDROGEN AND OXYGEN IN WATER TO PRODUCE FIRE THAT ONLY BURNS HARDER WHEN DOUSED WITH MORE WATER!
THAT'S RIGHT! THE MEN SAID THEY HAD A FIRE-AND-WATER ACT, AND I TREATED A LOT OF CLOTHES AND BLANKETS FOR THEM!
I BELIEVE YOU! YOU WOULD NEVER HAVE PUT AN ADVERTISING LEAFLET IN THIS SWEATER IF YOU HAD KNOWN THE TRUTH! BUT THOSE MEN AREN'T MAGICIANS—THEY'RE **MURDERERS!**
MURDERERS! OH, MY GOODNESS—AND HERE COMES ONE OF THEM NOW! HE'S AFTER MORE OF THE TREATED FABRICS!
DON'T WORRY! I'LL HANDLE THIS!
WITH PANTHER-LIKE SPRING, SUB-MARINER HURTLES AT THE NAZI---!
ACH! VAT ISS--?
BLITZKRIEG... YANKEE STYLE!

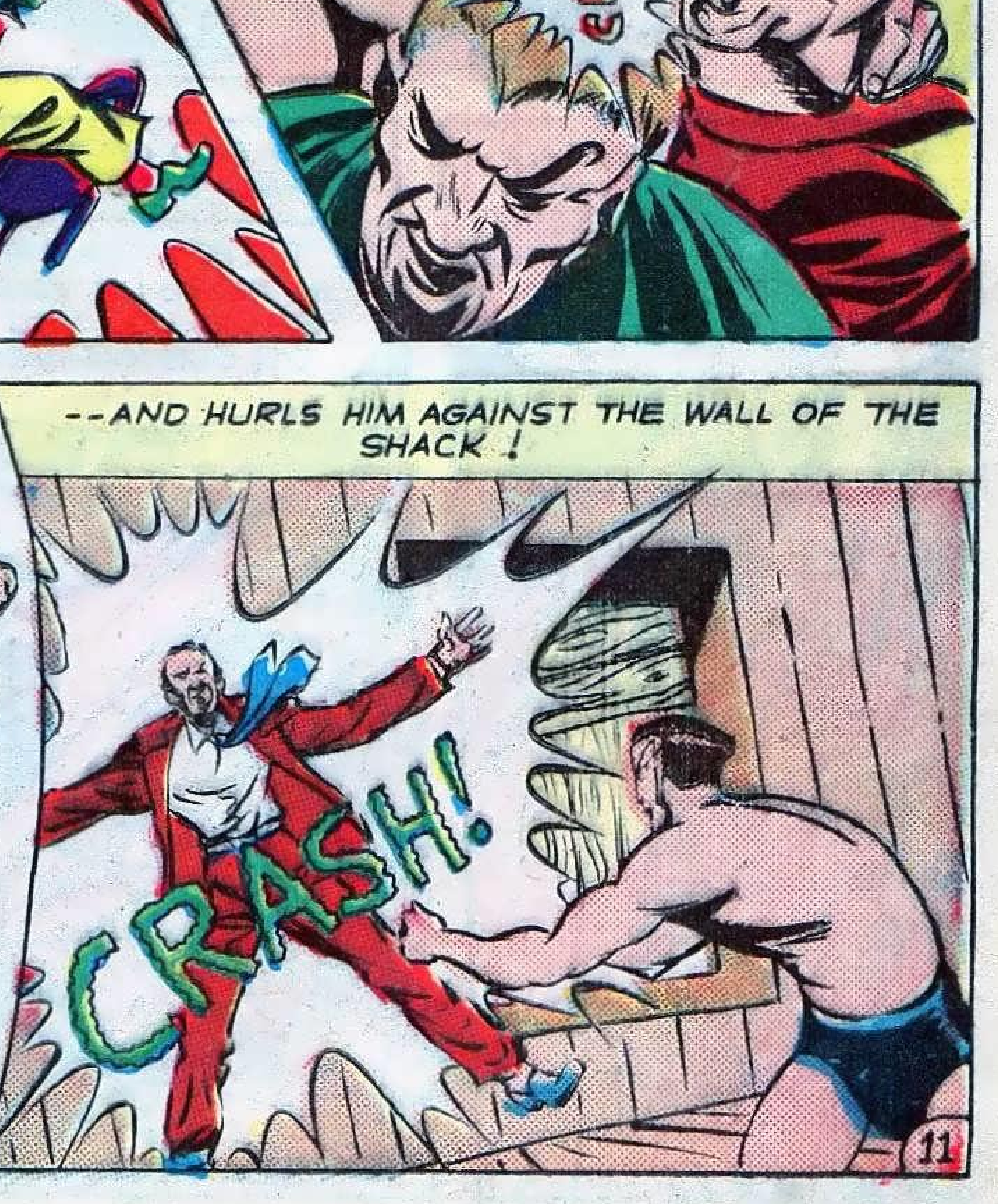
FIRST I'LL TEACH HIM A LESSON — THEN — !
SOCK!
SWING
HE'S UNCONSCIOUS! NOW HURRY — FIX A HYPODERMIC WITH A DOSE OF STRYCHNINE! WE'LL USE IT AS A HEART STIMULANT!
YES, SIR! I'LL HURRY!
SUB-MARINER PLUNGES THE HYPO INTO THE ARM OF THE NAZI!
THE NAZI REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS!
YOU'VE JUST HAD A SAMPLE OF WHAT I'LL DO TO YOU — UNLESS YOU TELL ME WHERE YOUR LEADER'S HIDEOUT IS!
LEAVE ME ALONE — IT'S NORTH SHORE — SANDY BAY!
THE NORTH SHORE, ON SANDY BAY! THAT'S LONG ISLAND!
MEANWHILE, ON LONG ISLAND, IN THE HIDEOUT OF THE VILLAINOUS NAZIS -- !
HEH-HEH! VEN DER VATER REACHES DER PILE OF FABRIC, IT VILL GO UP IN FLAMES! YOU VILL BE **BURNED ALIVE!** LATER VE VILL KILL YOUR FRIEND, SUB-MARINER!
YOU M-MAY KILL ME, VON HEILER! BUT YOU'LL NEVER GET SUB-MARINER!
Meanwhile
NEARLY THERE!


SUB-MARINER SWIMS DIRECTLY TO THE NORTH SHORE OF SANDY BAY, AND...
THE REST OF THIS AREA IS DESERTED! THAT MUST BE THE HIDEOUT!

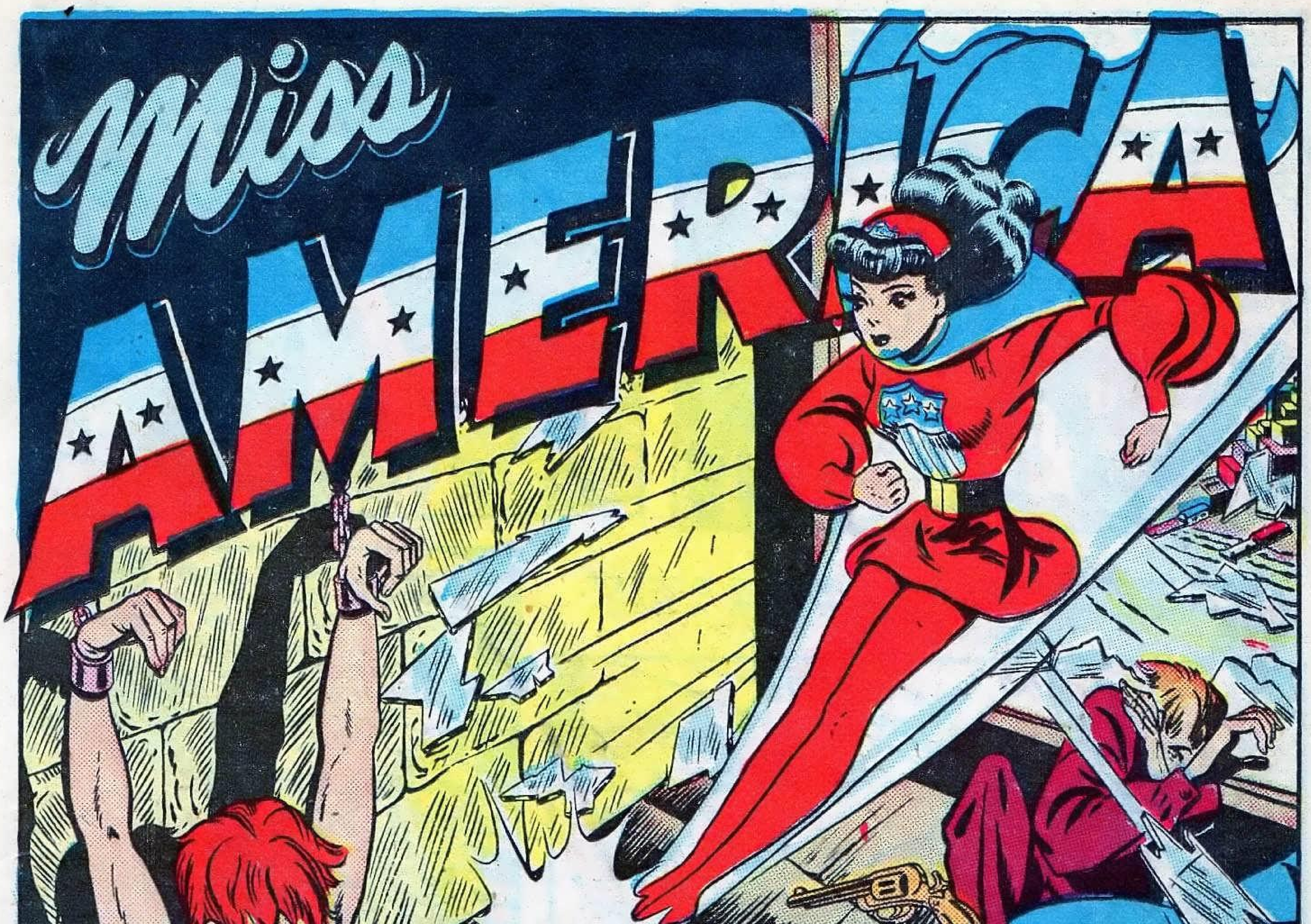

THE RUTHLESS KILLERS ARE TAKEN UNAWARES AS A DYNAMIC FIGURE BURSTS INTO THE SHACK!
ACH! SUB-MARINER! YOU!
YOU CAN SKIP THE GREETINGS, THIS IS NO SOCIAL CALL!

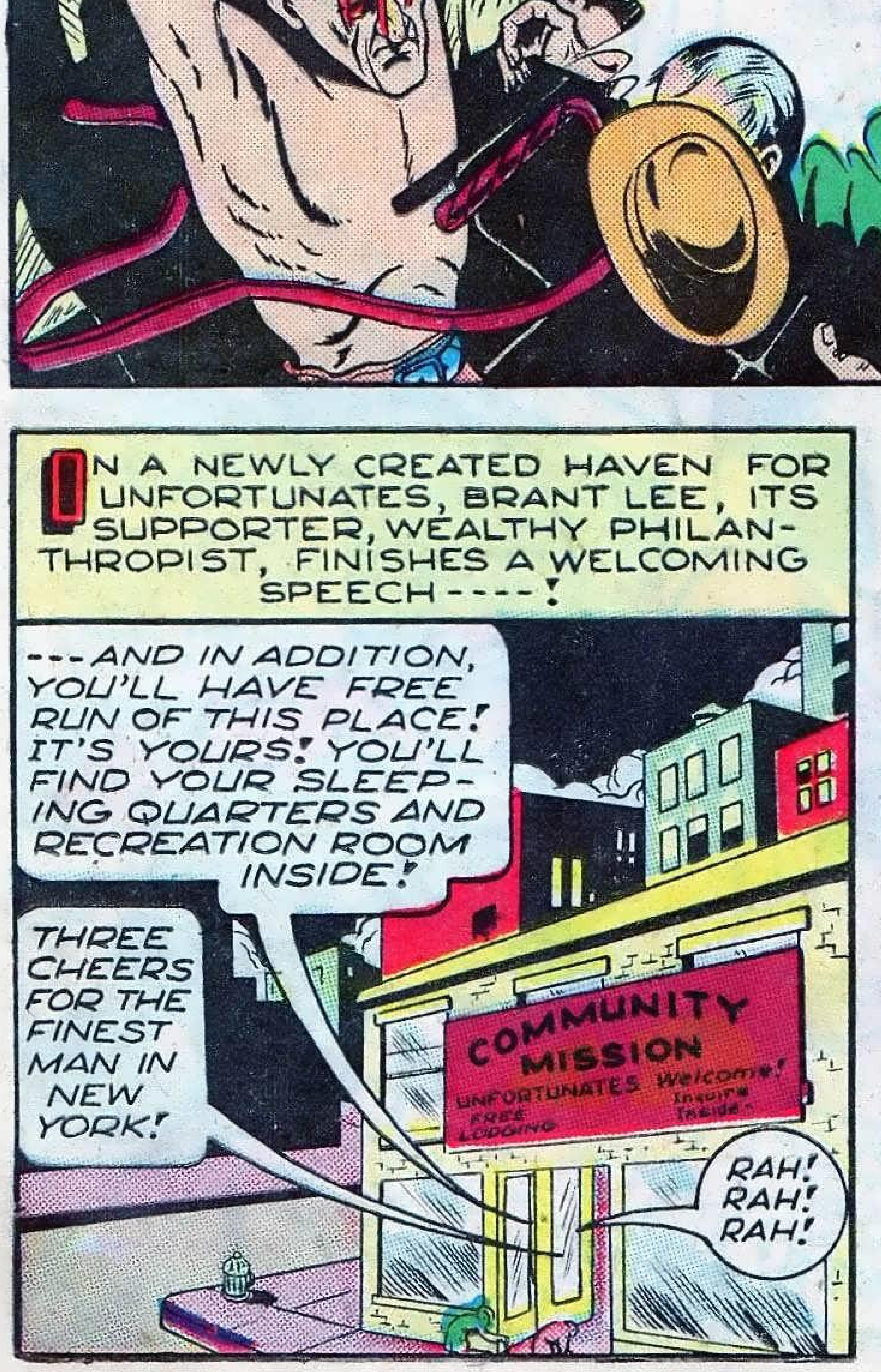

JOIN YOUR FRIENDS, YOU ROTTEN NAZI!
WHAT A HOLLOW SOUND!
CLUNK

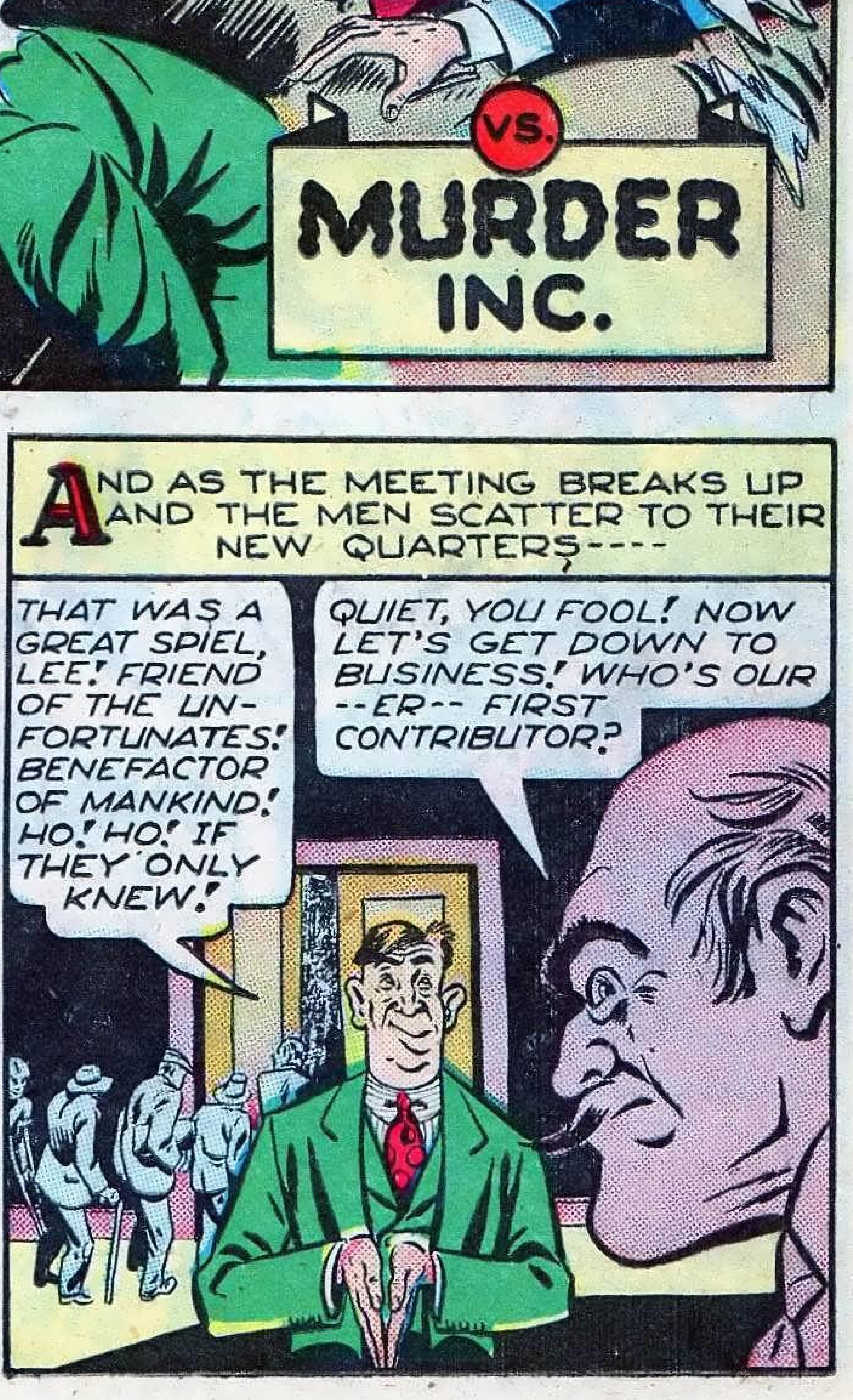

SUB-MARINER WHIRLS ONE OF THE NAZIS OFF HIS FEET--!
ACH! HIMMEL!


--AND HURLS HIM AGAINST THE WALL OF THE SHACK!
CRASH!

SUB-MARINER SPRINGS SUDDENLY!
SO! YOU'RE VON HEILER, THE LEADER OF THE MOST DANGEROUS NAZI SABOTEURS IN THIS COUNTRY!
SOCK
SUB-MARINER PULLS BETTY FROM THE PILE OF DEADLY FABRIC JUST AS THE WATER MAKES CONTACT!
FEARLESSLY, SUB-MARINER PLUNGES HIS HAND INTO THE FLAMING FABRIC --- AND WITH FULL FORCE THROWS THE LIVING FIRE AT VON HEILER!
OHH--
ACH! HELP! HELP!
THE FLAMES SPREAD OVER THE SHACK WITH THEIR TOUCH OF DEATH!
COME ON! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
THE END OF THE BAND OF RELENTLESS NAZI KILLERS! DEATH CLAIMS THEM QUICKLY IN THE RAGING INFERNO!
THEY'RE TRAPPED IN THERE! IT WAS A GRAND JOB YOU DID, SUB-MARINER!
IT WAS REVENGE FOR THOSE SERVICEMEN WHO LOST THEIR LIVES THROUGH VON HEILER'S CRUEL SCHEME! PERHAPS THIS WILL MAKE UP A LITTLE FOR THEIR DEATHS!


Miss AMERICA
VS.
MURDER INC.


IN A NEWLY CREATED HAVEN FOR UNFORTUNATES, BRANT LEE, ITS SUPPORTER, WEALTHY PHILANTHROPIST, FINISHES A WELCOMING SPEECH----!
---AND IN ADDITION, YOU'LL HAVE FREE RUN OF THIS PLACE! IT'S YOURS! YOU'LL FIND YOUR SLEEPING QUARTERS AND RECREATION ROOM INSIDE!
THREE CHEERS FOR THE FINEST MAN IN NEW YORK!
COMMUNITY MISSION
UNFORTUNATES Welcome!
FREE LODGING
Inquire Inside
RAH! RAH! RAH!


AND AS THE MEETING BREAKS UP AND THE MEN SCATTER TO THEIR NEW QUARTERS----
THAT WAS A GREAT SPIEL, LEE! FRIEND OF THE UNFORTUNATES! BENEFACTOR OF MANKIND! HO! HO! IF THEY ONLY KNEW!
QUIET, YOU FOOL! NOW LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS! WHO'S OUR --ER-- FIRST CONTRIBUTOR?

OUR FIRST CONVERT! AN OLD CHARACTER THEY CALL DAFFY SMITH! HIS POLICY'S COME THROUGH! OH, DAFFY, C'MERE!
EH? YOU CA-CA-CALLED-WANT ME!
YES! I WANT YOU TO RUN AN ERRAND FOR ME!
LATER, OUTSIDE THE MISSION---
PSST, SNAKE! HERE'S OUR FIRST JOB!
YEAH! OLE DAFFY! WAIT AROUND SPRING STREET! WHEN I PUSH 'IM OUT, DO YOUR STUFF!
AND ON THE CORNER OF SPRING STREET, MADELINE JOYCE WITNESSES A DASTARDLY ACT!
SCREECH!
NOW WHERE DID UNCLE SAY THAT ANTIQUE--? OH! HE DELIBERATELY PUSHED THAT OLD MAN! LOOK OUT!
UH? WHA-WHA-? HEAVENS!
--AND THAT CAB-DRIVER RAN HIM DOWN IN COLD BLOOD! THERE'S SOMETHING SINISTER BEHIND THIS!
AGHH!
IN A DESERTED ALLEY WAY, MADELINE JOYCE CHANGES WITH LIGHTNING SPEED INTO THE CRIME FIGHTING TOGS OF THE FAMOUS MISS AMERICA!
YOU'RE COMING WITH ME! I SAW YOU PUSH THAT OLD MAN!
AWK!
AS EASY AS A SWOOPING FALCON, MISS AMERICA STRIKES!

AND ZOOMS AFTER THE FLEEING CAB!
NOW TO CATCH THAT DRIVER AND SEE WHAT CONNECTION THERE IS BETWEEN YOU TWO SNAKES!
DOWN SWOOPS THE AVENGING FIGURE, WHILE STARTLED, THE THUG LOSES CONTROL OF HIS CAB!
MISS AMERICA? I---? YIIIIIIIIII!
CRASH!
STAY PUT-- I CAN'T LET YOUR PAL BURN JUST YET!
STAY PUT? FAT CHANCE!
HELP! HELP!
SAVING THE CAB-DRIVER, MISS AMERICA TURNS TO FIND HER FIRST CAPTIVE GONE!
THERE! NOW FOR YOUR PAL! WHY, HE'S GONE! ALLRIGHT-- SUPPOSE YOU TELL ME WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT?
I DON'T KNOW FROM NOTHIN'!
NO? PERHAPS THIS WILL REFRESH YOUR MEMORY!
WHOOSH! I S-STILL D-DON'T K-KNOW!
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO MESS UP THE STREET, YOU'D BETTER TALK!
NO! NO! I'LL TALK! GO TO THE COMMUNITY! YOU'LL FIND YOUR ANSWER THERE!

FLYING BACK TO THE SCENE OF THE MURDER, MISS AMERICA TOSSES HER CAPTIVE TO A POLICEMAN---
HERE'S ONE OF THE KILLERS-- GIVE 'IM A NICE STRONG CELL!
ZOOOM-M
YOU BET!
AND MOMENTS LATER--
I'VE HEARD OF THIS PLACE! IT'S SUPPORTED BY A WELL KNOWN PHILANTHROPIST! STILL--- I'D BETTER LOOK AROUND!
WHILE WITHIN THE BUILDING AT THAT VERY MOMENT, MR. BRANY LEE TENDS A SUDDENLY STRICKEN MAN!
HE WAS TAKEN SICK SUDDEN-LIKE RIGHT AFTER THE EVENING MEAL!
TCH! TCH! POOR OLD FELLOW! BAD CASE OF INDIGESTION! WE'LL TAKE HIM TO THE HOSPITAL! IT'S IN THE OTHER BUILDING!
YEAH! HE LOOKS PRETTY FAR GONE! HERE--- HELP ME WITH 'IM!
THIS IS WHERE WE CURE OUR PATIENTS!
YEAH! CURE OR KILL, EH, LEE? HEH! HEH!
ICE WATER
KILL IS RIGHT! SO! THAT'S WHY YOU MADE US TAKE OUT POLICIES!-- **YOU DIRTY MURDERERS!**
SHUT YOUR MOUTH!
IT'S OKAY, LOUIE! I HAD HIM FIGURED AS OUR NEXT VICTIM ANYWAY! GIVE HIM THE WATER TREATMENT!
YOU DIRTY DOGS! I'LL NEVER LET YOU-- OHHHHH!
THIS'LL CHANGE YOUR MIND!
CRACK!

CHAINING THEIR UNCONSCIOUS VICTIM TO THE STEEL COT, THE KILLERS TURN ON, FIRST A SHOWER OF ICE-COLD WATER AND THEN THE ELECTRIC FAN!
GOOD! THAT SHOULD GIVE 'IM A NICE CASE OF PNEUMONIA!
THE ARSENIC'S DONE ITS WORK TO THE OTHER SUCKER! THAT MAKES THREE DEAD OR FIFTEEN GRAND TODAY! NOT BAD!
MEANWHILE -- MISS AMERICA --
THIS IS IT! THE COMMUNITY HOUSE! WHAT'S GOING ON IN THERE?
ZOOM!
THIS INSURANCE RACKET'S A GREAT IDEA! GETTIN' THE PUNKS TO TAKE OUT POLICIES IN YOUR NAME, THEN BUMPIN' 'EM OFF!
SO! WHOLESALE SLAUGHTER! WHY, THE DIRTY SKUNKS!
YES! AND THE INSURANCE COMPANIES PAY BECAUSE THE DEATHS LOOK ACCIDENTAL!
BURNING WITH ANGER AT THE MURDEROUS PLAN, MISS AMERICA --- ACTS!
SHE'S LIKE LIGHTNING! I CAN'T EVEN HIT HER!
DEAL IN HUMAN LIVES, WILL YOU, YOU GHOUL!
AND YOU! POSING AS A KINDLY PHILANTHROPIST AND TAKING YOUR PROFITS IN BLOOD!
WHY, YOU LITTLE SLIP! I'LL--? OHHH-
SOK!

THE KILLERS APPARENTLY SUBDUED, MISS AMERICA TURNS TO RELEASE THEIR VICTIM, BUT LOUIE---
YOU POOR THING! I'LL HAVE YOU FREE IN A JIFFY!
THANKS, MISS! I--? LOOK OUT BEHIND YOU!
BUT MISS AMERICA WHIRLS TOO LATE--
GHOUL, AM I? WELL, YOU'LL SOON BE---
-- A CORPSE!
GOOD WORK, LOUIE! WE'LL SINK HER BODY IN THE RIVER!
WEIGHTING HER BODY WITH CHAINS, THE MURDEROUS DUO THROW MISS AMERICA INTO THE RIVER---
THAT TAKES CARE OF HER!
YES! NOW WE CAN GET ON WITH OUR PLANS!
BUT THE SHOCK OF THE COLD WATER REVIVES MISS AMERICA, AND--
EXERTING THE LAST OUNCE OF HER TREMENDOUS STRENGTH, MISS AMERICA SNAPS HER CHAINS!
THERE! NOW TO GET AFTER THOSE KILLERS BEFORE THEY GET THEIR HANDS ON OTHER VICTIMS!
6

WHILE BACK AT THE MURDERERS' TORTURE ROOM----
WE'RE IN TROUBLE! MISS AMERICA GOT JAKE!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT DAME! WE JUST SUNK HER IN THE EAST RIVER!
SURE! SHE'S AS DEAD AS--
AS YOU'RE GOING TO BE VERY SHORTLY!
MISS AMERICA TEARS INTO THE MURDERERS----
LET ME OUT! I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOU!
SO YOU CAME TO JOIN THE PARTY!
I'LL NOT ONLY LET YOU OUT, I'LL KNOCK YOU OUT WITH PLEASURE!
LET ME GO, YOU--! AHHHH!
NO, MR.! YOU'VE GOT A DATE WITH THE EXECUTIONER!
TAKING THE DEFEATED THUGS IN HAND--
CENTRAL POLICE HEADQUARTERS! THIS IS WHERE YOU GET OFF!
HEY! YOU DIDN'T GIVE US A CHANCE TO THANK YOU!
SORRY! BUT I HAVE TO RUN AN ERRAND FOR MY UNCLE!

The KEY

THEY must have had it hot and heavy, Bowman and Mallory. Dad Mallory didn't talk much about his end of the business, so no one knew for sure just what happened when he'd called Bowman, the new guy, into the office.

Luke Masters was blowing sad-sounding ditties on his mouth orchestra after supper. We were hanging around outside the bunk house. Bowman was sitting there, looking ornery and maybe just a little scared.

Out of the crowd came a voice. I knew it but Bowman didn't. It said, "Two strikes on Bow. One more and he's out—"

"Don't kid yourself, wise guy." Bowman snapped back, grey eyes giving the gang the once over, trying to figure out who'd sounded off. "You've gotta get up before breakfast to put anything over on Bill Bowman. You don't know me."

"You don't know Dad Mallory." Luke Masters stopped long enough to shake the spit out of his harmonica. "He knows why you came all the way up here."

"For a job, of course." Bowman's face looked sweated, his eyes narrowed, scared. "I—my doc says I needed outdoor work—"

"Sure. You're patriotic and figured this was helping your country."

"Why, you—"

But Luke wrapped his lips around the mouth organ and started to play. Bowman gave him a look that would have killed an ordinary man, got up and slouched away.

* * * * *

HE'S a hard customer. Easy to see that. But so is Mallory. The old man's got a boy over in the Pacific somewhere and a daughter is an army nurse. He's a square-shooter and won't take any nonsense from anyone.

I guess it was because we were short-handed already that Mallory took the guy on. Logging is tough, and although Bowman was tough in his way, we didn't figure he'd be able to take it.

He had spent more than a little time cussing the old man out. It happened one afternoon when we were out working. Luke Masters had jumped him about it.

"You're the wrong guy to talk about Mallory," Luke had said. "None of us would, and I'm danged sure you won't get away with it."

"Yeah? Because of what? I suppose you figure I can't take care of myself?" Bowman's lips thinned. "I know my way around," he boasted. "So far's Mallory's concerned—"

Luke worked in close, his fists doubled, hanging onto the ends of powerful, long arms. "You're a wise guy," Luke snarled. "Smart enough not to tell it to Mallory's face. You're yellow, and for two bits—"

We got 'em apart, but Bowman's eyes had a sneaky look.

* * * * *

MALLORY wasn't afraid of any of the work, from the cutting and trimming right on down to the time when we floated the stuff down river to the mill. We thought nothing of seeing him out on the middle of a boom, a peavey in his big, raw-boned hands like a lance in the hands of one of those old-time warriors you see pictures about.

Mallory kept Bowman with him almost all the time. The next day we were out cutting. Mallory was there with Bowman. It wasn't anything out of the ordinary. Luke Masters and Henny Wright dropped their tree, and when it started, Luke yelled, "Fall," and everyone got out of the way.

Bowman got out the wrong way. He didn't stop to look. We yelled at him, but because of the noise of the falling tree, he didn't hear. He wasn't killed but some of the limbs caught him, knocked him flat and out of breath.

Later he blew his top. "That darn Mallory. He wouldn't put a guy wise. He's picking on the wrong bird!"

"Take it easy." Luke Masters sidled up to where Bowman leaned against the side of the bunk house, letting off steam. "You're talking about Mallory. He's the wrong guy to talk about that way. I told you that, once before."

And the next day Bowman was called into the old man's office again. It was Spike Danvers who gave us the low-down later.

"Guess the old man smells a rat," Spike admitted to a few of us. "He sure talked cold-turkey. He wanted to know what Bowman was doing up here, in the first place. Wanted to know if he was hiding! Mallory ain't nobody's fool—"

"Neither is Bowman. He's got it in for the old man right now. If he tries anything, you can be sure it ain't going to be right out in front of all of us!"

Nothing happened till the day of the log-jam just above the bend in the river.

* * * * *

THAT'S a time when we were kept plenty busy—had to keep the logs going down river straight, keep them from getting crossed and piling up. When there's a jam like that, there's usually trouble. Sometimes it's necessary to use dynamite. There's usually one log, the key log, that ties up all the rest. If that one can be found and can be pried loose, the jam usually breaks up. If a guy's working out in the middle of the jam in the river, he's got to move fast . . . or he's mince-meat.

Mallory was on the job. And as usual he had Bowman right with him. In the last couple of days I'd been watching Bowman closely, and could see that he was about wound up and ready to go off. I didn't like it. I tried to keep close to them . . . just in case.

When the logs jammed this day, Mallory went out. And took Bowman along with him. Spike Danvers told us about what happened a couple of days later. Guess Dad Mallory spilled the story. Or enough of it so's we could figure out what happened out there in the middle of the river.

Bowman was ugly his thin face sweated up and dirty, his grey eyes watching Mallory as they picked their way out to the center of the twisted logs.

"You've got to be careful at a time like this," Mallory explained. "There's always a key log locking the rest. You find that, get your peavey in it and get it free, so the rest can break up—"

"You and your logs can go to blazes!" Bowman snarled, breaking into Mallory's explanations. "I've had enough. I'm getting out!" His face got red, then whitened around the edge of his mouth. "You been laying it on me heavy ever since I come. You've got it in for me, that's what! And I'm not taking it any more!"

Mallory just smiled and all the time he was working slowly across the jam, his eyes going over it, looking for the key. "You're nuts," he told Bowman. "Course, I don't believe this yarn of yours—".

* * * * *

"SURE," Bowman snarled. "You figured it out for yourself. Okay. I'm hiding. I'm running away from the draft, because if they catch up with me and check my record . . ." The guy took a deep breath. "They're going to find a lot of other things that ain't good. You got my number and now I'm getting out!" His hand slid under his coat and out, holding onto a revolver. "You nor nobody else is going to stop me. In fact . . . I'm paying you off for just getting in my way. You're getting yours right now! Show you guys I'm not yellow. You and Luke Masters!"

Mallory turned away, moving sure-footedly. "The key log," he called, "is right here. Now if you'll watch—"

He drove the peavey in deep and the hook caught and sank into the log. And next instant Mallory threw his weight against it and the log turned, twisted slowly, then snapped around.

A second later the whole pile heaved in the middle and the sound was like thunder. Over to the side the whole jam sank and water rushed over it, foaming—

Mallory knew what was happening. He turned and started going. He'd done this all his life and didn't miss his footing once.

With Bowman it was different. He started in the wrong direction.

The logs were sinking, the water rushing over them. He stopped, waving his arms to get his balance, then got turned around. He yelled once, a hoarse cry of fear that carried across river—

He started to run but the jam broke up completely then, with a grinding roar. Logs dipped and sank and rose again, some of them almost straight up in the air.

And next second . . . Bowman slipped and fell and disappeared into the churning mass of logs as they tore free and started on down river.

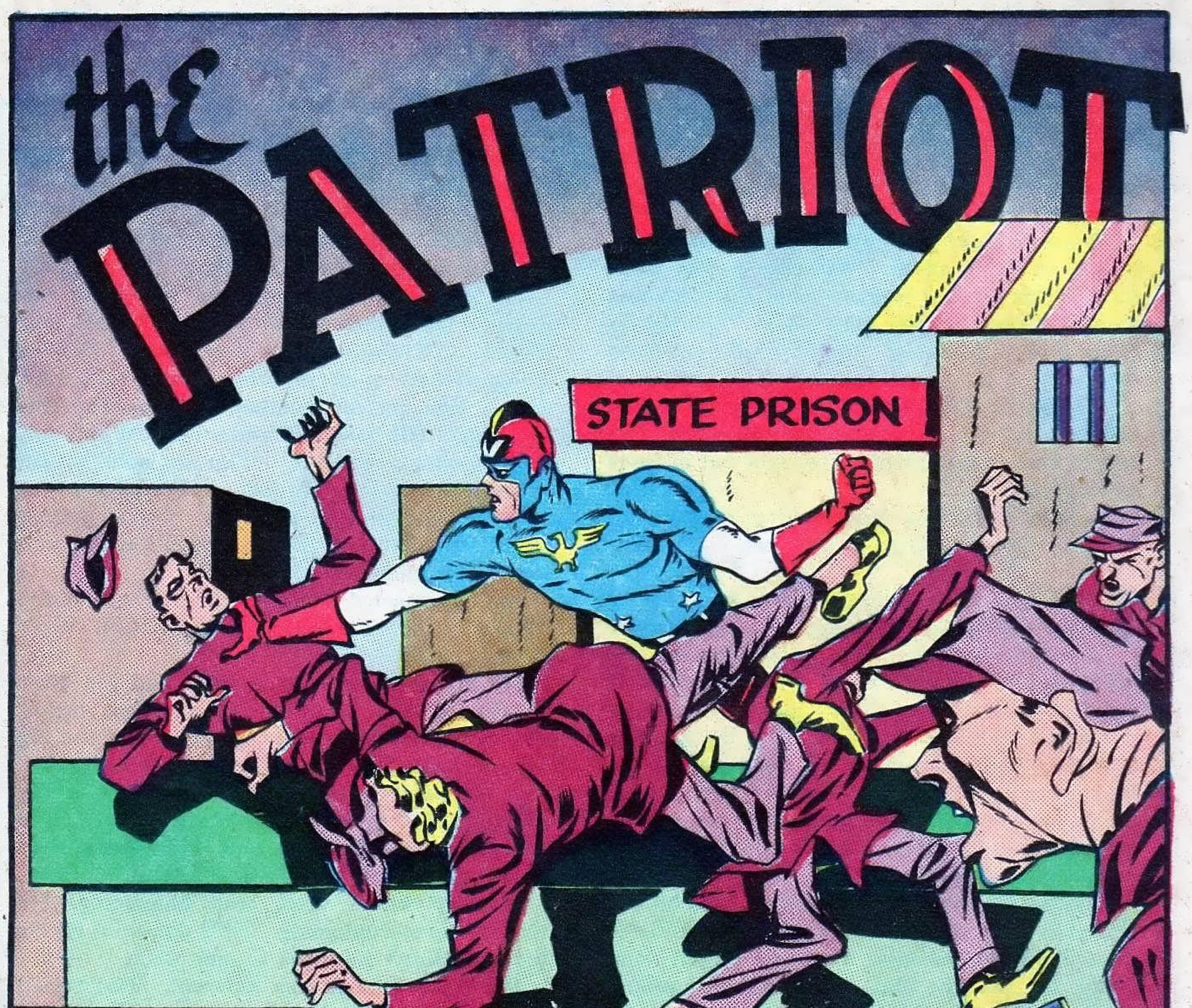
Mallory stuck his peavey into a log, stood looking out over the river, covered by a blanket of logs moving smoothly along. Luke Masters sidled up.

"Bowman's done for. We found some of him below the rapids."

Mallory nodded, his face looking tired. "Accidental death, I guess you'd call it." He twisted the peavey loose slowly. "I tried to show him about that jam, but he had too much on his mind. Too much for his own good!"

THE END

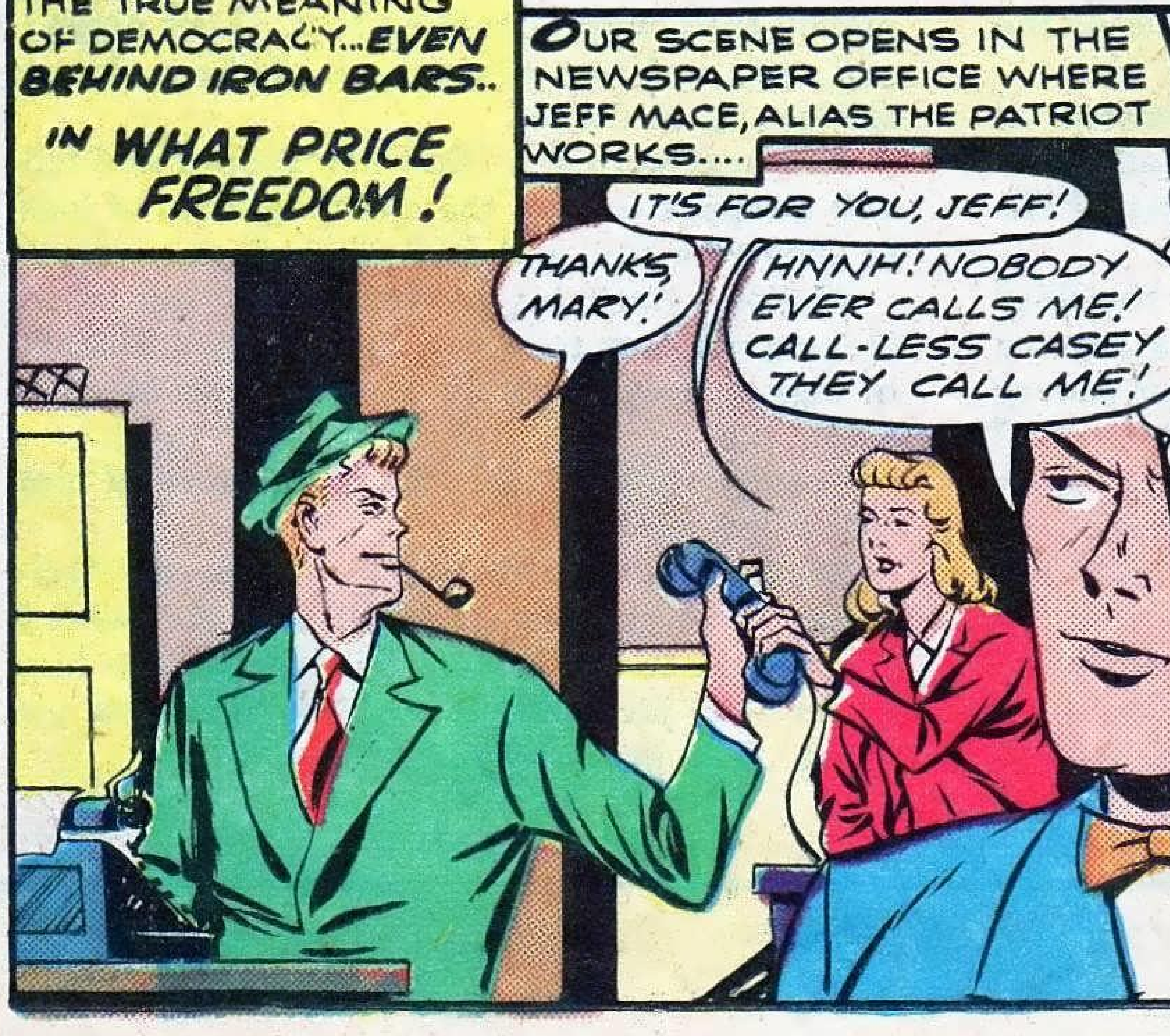
the PATRIOT

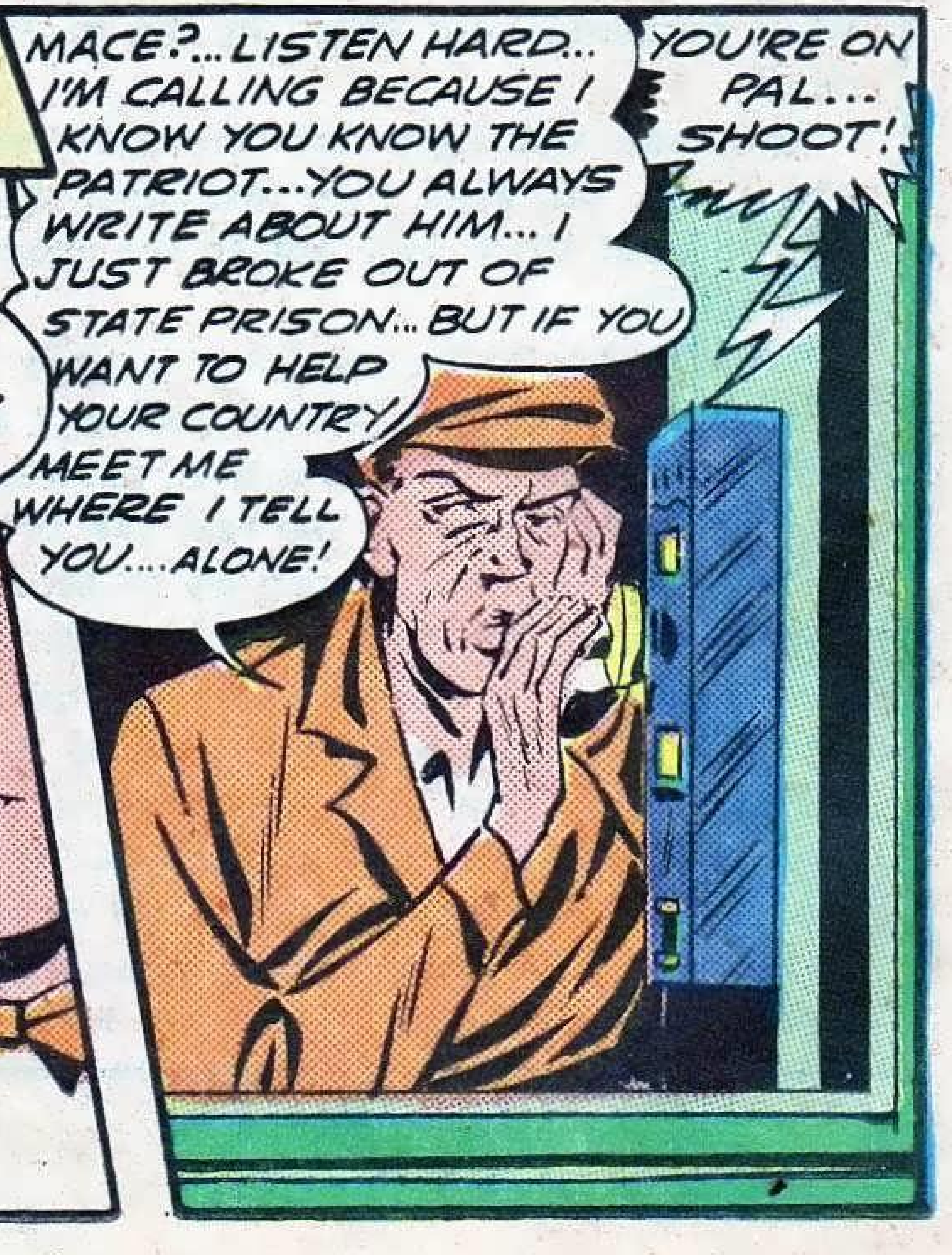

STATE PRISON

THE PATRIOT TURNS THE TIDE ON A TREACHEROUS WAVE OF INTERNATIONAL CRIME IN THIS DYNAMIC DRAMA IN WHICH TWO THOUSAND MEN LEARN THE TRUE MEANING OF DEMOCRACY... ***EVEN BEHIND IRON BARS..***

IN ***WHAT PRICE FREEDOM!***

OUR SCENE OPENS IN THE NEWSPAPER OFFICE WHERE JEFF MACE, ALIAS THE PATRIOT WORKS....


IT'S FOR YOU, JEFF!
THANKS, MARY!
HNNH! NOBODY EVER CALLS ME! CALL-LESS CASEY THEY CALL ME!


MACE?... LISTEN HARD... I'M CALLING BECAUSE I KNOW YOU KNOW THE PATRIOT... YOU ALWAYS WRITE ABOUT HIM... I JUST BROKE OUT OF STATE PRISON... BUT IF YOU WANT TO HELP YOUR COUNTRY, MEET ME WHERE I TELL YOU.... ALONE!
YOU'RE ON PAL... SHOOT!

HEY! WHERE ARE YOU OFF TO IN SUCH A HURRY?
?
GOT A DATE WITH A BLONDE! SEE YOU KIDS LATER
HE THROWING YOU OVER MARY?
NAW, THE BIG LUG!... IF THAT WAS A BLONDE SHE HAS AN AWFULLY BASS VOICE! C'MON... LET'S TRAIL HIM!
THIS LOOKS LIKE THE PLACE... NOW FOR SOME LIGHT ON THE SUBJECT!
ER... IS "MAC" IN?.. I'M JEFF MACE...
MACE, HUH?... YEAH I GUESS SO... IT'S THE BACK ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR!
KNOCK! KNOCK!
MAC?... JEFF MACE!
OKAY! COME IN!
OKAY, MAC... NOW WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?
I HAVEN'T GOT MUCH TIME REPORTER, SO KEEP YOUR EARS OPEN AND YOUR MOUTH SHUT... AND YOU'LL GET THE BIGGEST STORY OF YOUR CAREER!
MEANWHILE MARY AND CASEY ARE IN HOT PURSUIT OF JEFF....
YOU SURE HE WENT THIS WAY?
POSITIVE! KEEP A LOOK OUT FOR THAT CAR OF HIS!

THERE'S THINGS GOIN' ON AT THE STATE PEN THAT'LL THROW THE WHOLE WAR EFFORT OUT OF KILTER UNLESS YOU CAN GET YOUR FRIEND THE PATRIOT INTERESTED... YOU SEE... I CAN'T GO THE TO THE COPS...
SURE... GO ON...
SUDDENLY...
OKAY... NOW... WHAT'S THIS! A TRAP!
GREETINGS JEFF... THOUGHT WE'D CUT IN FOR A CHANGE, SO....
?
HEY! MAC... WAIT!!
CRASH!
I'M GETTIN' OUTTA HERE!
NOW WHAT GOT INTO HIM?
GOSH, JEFF, I'M SORRY IF WE QUEERED YOU...
SKIP IT... HE'S GONE NOW ANYWAY!
YOU'RE GETTING AWFULLY TOUCHY LATELY, JEFF! WHAT YOU NEED IS A NICE LONG REST SOME...
YEAH!
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I HAVE IN MIND! SEE YOU IN A COUPLE OF WEEKS!
?
???
LATER....
SORRY I HAD TO TREAT THEM LIKE THAT... BUT IT'LL SAVE A LOT OF EXPLAINING!
3.

A SHORT TIME AFTERWARDS AT THE LOCAL F.B.I. HEADQUARTERS---
CAN YOU FIX IT FOR ME, BILL?
IF YOU MUST TALK... TELL IT TO THE MARINES!
IT'S A PRETTY RISKY PLAN, JEFF... BUT I GUESS IT CAN BE ARRANGED... BE DOWN HERE FIRST THING IN THE MORNING!
BRIGHT AND EARLY---
OPEN UP, JOE! NEW BATCH OF CANARIES!
STATE PRISON
NAME AND CONVICTION!
JEFF MACE.... ESPIONAGE.... TWENTY YEARS!
NEXT!
YOUR SUITE, PAL... WITH THE WARDEN'S COMPLIMENTS! IF YOU NEED ANYTHING... JUST BAT YOUR HEAD UP AGAINST THE WALL!
SURE! SURE!
SNAPPY STORIES
COZY!.. MY NAME'S JEFF!
CALL ME "SLIT"... LIFER... WHAT'S YOUR RAP?
ESPIONAGE.... YOU KNOW.... A NAZI SPY!
WHY, YOU RAT...! I OUGHTA..
AWH!.. WHAT'S THE USE?... THIS CAN IS FULLA YOU SNEAKS! YOU OUGHTA DO ALL RIGHT HERE!

AFTER A WEEK OF BAD FOOD AND CRAMPED QUARTERS... JEFF GETS TO KNOW SLIT BETTER......
SLIT... LISTEN... I THINK I CAN TRUST YOU...
DON'T WASTE YOUR BREATH, NAZI! IN MY ESTIMATION, ALL YOU GUYS ARE RATS!
THAT'S JUST IT... I'M NOT A NAZI... LISTEN... DID YOU KNOW "MAC?"
MAC? --- THAT'S DIFFERENT! LISTEN... CLAM UP 'TILL WE GET BACK TO THE CELL!
A SHORT TIME LATER......
A REPORTER, EH?... OKAY, I'LL TALK! YOU SEE, MAC'S KID BROTHER WAS KILLED AT GUADALCANAL... AND THOUGH MAC MADE ONE BIG MISTAKE... HE'S STILL A GOOD AMERICAN, SEE?
NATURALLY... GO ON...
WELL, EVER SINCE PEARL HARBOR, THEY'VE BEEN SHIPPING MORE AND MORE NAZI SPIES UP HERE... AND NOW THEY ARE IN CONTROL..... THAT'S A FACT!
THE WARDEN TOO?
NAW, BUT HE'S A DOPE! MOST OF THE GUARDS HERE ARE PRO-NAZI AND THE FIFTY OR MORE IMPRISONED SPIES HERE HAVE A PRETTY FREE HAND!
WHAT'S THE PLAN THEY HAVE IN MIND?
A FULL SCALE BREAK! CAN YOU IMAGINE TWO THOUSAND GUYS LIKE ME ON THE LOOSE? THE G-GUYS'D BE SO BUSY CATCHIN' UP WITH US, THE NAZIS'D HAVE A FREE LEG TO SABOTAGE THE COUNTRY!
WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME ALL THIS?
BECAUSE I'M AN AMERICAN, SEE? I GOT A FREE TRIAL, DIDN'T I? THAT'S MORE THAN I COULD EXPECT UNDER THE GESTAPO!.... MAC TOLD ME SO!
AND SO, THAT NIGHT... WHILE SLIT SLEEPS, THE PATRIOT GOES TO WORK!
SORRY, PAL.... BUT I'LL NEED THOSE KEYS!
UHH!
THUD!

THE PATRIOT LOCATES THE HEAD GUARD'S OFFICE.....
EVERYTHING IS READY, HERR KRANZ! THEY WAIT ONLY FOR YOUR SIGNAL!
YA! GOOT! HEIL HITLER!
I'LL MAKE THE LAST CHECKUP MYSELF! LET US GO TAKE A LAST LOOK!
YIPE! NAZI STORM TROOPERS IN AN AMERICAN PRISON... AND ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE BARS!... THIS WILL NEVER DO!
THEY LEFT THE DOOR OPEN! GOOD! NOW TO HIDE HERE 'TILL HE GETS BACK! --UH-OH! THAT SOUNDS LIKE HIM NOW!
KRANZ ENTERS AND GOES RIGHT TO WORK! WITH EARPHONES WIRED TO EVERY SPY'S CELL, HE MAKES QUICK AND SECRET CONTACT!!
MEN OF THE NEW ORDER..... ALL IS SET FOR YOUR ESCAPE! THE EXACT TIME FOR IT IS....
BUT NOW THE PATRIOT TAKES OVER AND....
TELL THEM THE TIME IS NOW!... OR I'LL SNAP YOUR BACK LIKE MATCHWOOD!
AGGH! YA! YA!... I'LL DO IT!
THE TIME IS NOW! YOUR GUNS ARE WAITING! MEET IN THE MAIN YARD! HEIL HITLER!
IT HAS COME!
YA! AMERICA IS OURS! LET US GO!

FROM KRANZ' BLACK LIST, PATRIOT LEARNS WHO THE LOYAL AMERICAN GUARDS ARE....
HERE THEY COME! YOU MEN COVER THEM.... WE'LL PROBABLY HAVE TROUBLE!
CHECK, PATRIOT..! I'VE BEEN WANTING TO DO THIS FOR MONTHS!
WHERE'S KRANZ?
KRANZ!
HEY! WHAT ABOUT US? YOU PROMISED...
YA! IT MAY BE A TRICK! THESE FOOLS CAN COVER UP FOR US... LET THEM OUT!
YA, HERR KURT!
YEAH!
PATRIOT EXPLAINS TO THE WARDEN!
...JEFF MACE, A REPORTER, TIPPED ME OFF! THE F.B.I. WILL VOUCH FOR HIM! WILL YOU HELP?
HELP? I HAVE NO CHOICE! EVERY LAST MAN IS IN THE MAIN YARD RIGHT NOW!! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE? DO SOMETHING!
THE PATRIOT DOES!
BACK YOU GO! YOU TOO! ...ATTENTION, MEN! LISTEN!!
BANG!
UGH!
AGHH!
RAT TAT TAT
BAM!
THE PATRIOT'S STRONG VOICE SUCCEEDS IN CALMING THE FEVERED PRISONERS...
AND SO.... MEN OF AMERICA... YOU CAN'T LET YOUR FRIENDS AND BROTHERS DOWN!... THEY WHO ARE GIVING THEIR LIVES TO PRESERVE WHAT YOU WOULD ALLOW THESE FEW RATS TO DESTROY!
HERE IS YOUR ENEMY!.. ARE YOU WITH ME?
YOU BET, PATRIOT!
WE WERE NUTS TO THINK THEY'D GIVE US REAL LIBERTY!
NICE WORK, PAL.... AND IF YOU EVER BUMP INTO... ER.... JEFF... TELL HIM THANKS!
THE NEXT DAY.....
SAY! HOW'D YOU GET A STORY LIKE THIS ON YOUR VACATION?
SIMPLE, PET.. VERY SIMPLE!
YOU KNOW... MAYBE THAT'S WHAT I NEED TOO! A NICE LONG REST!
...AND YOU'LL GET IT TOO IF YOU DON'T GET BUSY!.. WITHOUT PAY!
THE PATRIOT WILL BE BACK IN THE NEXT MARVEL WITH ANOTHER STORY OF THE WAR ON THE HOME FRONT! AND YOU CAN HELP.. BY BUYING WAR STAMPS & BONDS!

THE ANGEL

UNITED STATES MAIL CAR
SAFE
AT THE OFFICE OF A RAILWAY EXPRESS AGENCY, JED HANNIGAN, RAILROAD DETECTIVE ---
YOU SENT FOR ME, SIR?
YES! THE THEFTS FROM THE MAIL-CARS ARE CONTINUING! A DIAMOND BRACELET WAS STOLEN LAST NIGHT! IT LOOKS LIKE AN ORGANIZED GANG!
I'LL SAY IT DOES!
THERE'S A PACKAGE OF VALUABLE JEWELS DUE ON THE 11:05 TONIGHT! I SUGGEST YOU GUARD THE MAIL CAR!

YOU BET! IF THEY MAKE A TRY FOR THAT, I'LL NAIL 'EM!
BUT BE CAREFUL, HANNIGAN! THEY MAY BE DANGEROUS! NOW, THE CAR NUMBER IS 2211 --- GOODLUCK!
THAT NIGHT AS CAR 2211 IS BEING UNLOADED --!
WELL, SO FAR NOTHIN'S--? WAIT! THERE'S A MAN ACTIN' QUEER-LIKE! I'LL TAIL HIM!
MAIL CAR 2211
THE FIGURE SLINKS AWAY AND CUTS ACROSS THE TRACKS!
SO! THAT'S MY MAN! IF HE THINKS HE'LL GET AWAY, HE'S GOT ANOTHER THINK COMIN'!
HANNIGAN TRAILS THE SUSPICIOUS FIGURE!
STOP OR I'LL SHOOT!
WHA-? KEEP AWAY, COPPER!
YOU ASKED FOR IT, COPPER!
PUT YOUR HANDS--? AHHH!
LATER---
I FOUND HIM JUST THE WAY HE LAYS, BOSS! MUST OF BEEN CHASIN' SOMEONE!
YES! I WISH I KNEW WHO! WELL, I KNOW A MAN WHO'LL BE ABLE TO FIND OUT! I'LL PHONE HIM!
THAT SAME EVENING, THE ANGEL'S PHONE RINGS--!
MURDER, EH? IT MAY BE AN INSIDE JOB! PUT ME TO WORK IN THE FREIGHT YARDS SO I CAN MIX WITH THE MEN!
2.

THE NEXT NIGHT A NEW EMPLOYEE REPORTS TO THE FOREMAN . . . THE ANGEL . . .
YOU'RE THE NEW MAN? ALL RIGHT, YOU'LL WORK WITH TIPPY, HERE! HE'LL SHOW YOU WHAT TO DO!
RIGHT, MR. TAINTOR!
'MON, BO! I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT THE SCORE IS AROUND HERE!
THE FIRST HALF OF THE EVENING PROVES UN-EVENTFUL, BUT THAT MIDNIGHT AS THE GANG KNOCKS OFF FOR LUNCH, TIPPY . . . .
YOU'RE A DICK, AIN'TCHA?
A DICK? YOU'RE BALMY!
DON'T GIVE ME THAT! I DIDN'T DO FIVE YEARS IN STIR FOR NOTHIN'! YOU WANNA KNOW WHO BUMPED OFF THE COPPER?
OKAY! IF YOU KNOW SOMETHING, SPILL IT!
NOT HERE! IF THEY HEARD ME, THEY'D KILL ME! MEET ME IN THE YARD IN TEN MINUTES!
DON'T WORRY! THEY WONT KNOW!
WHILE JUST BEHIND THEM. . .
PSST, JOE! IT LOOKS LIKE WE GOT A JOB TO DO!
YEAH, WHAT'S UP?
THE NEW GUY'S A DICK! TIPPY JUST TIPPED 'IM OFF TO MEET HIM IN THE YARD! HE'S GOING TO SPILL THE BEANS!
OH YEAH! THE BOSS'LL HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT THAT!
. . . AND A FEW SECONDS LATER, ON THE LOADING PLATFORM . . .
. . . AN' THAT'S THE STORY, BOSS! TIPPY'S MEETIN' HIM BY THAT STRING OF EMPTY FREIGHTS!
WE'LL HAVE TO SHUT HIS MOUTH! PUT YOUR MASKS ON AND MEETME THERE RIGHT AWAY!

WHILE AT THAT MOMENT, ANGEL IS HEADED FOR THE MEETING!
LET'S SEE! HE SAID HE'D MEET ME BETWEEN THE FIRST TWO ROWS OF EMPTY CARS! THAT'D BE OVER THERE!
AND WAITING NERVOUSLY BETWEEN THE STRING OF EMPTY CARS---
WHEN IS THAT COPPER SHOWIN' UP? I--??
WON'T I DO, TIPPY?
SO, YOU'RE GOING TO SQUEAL, EH, TIPPY? THAT'S TOO BAD!
NO! I WON'T SQUEAL! I SWEAR I WON'T!
I'LL SAY YOU WON'T!
NO!!---?AHHH!
WHILE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE CAR---
IT SOUNDED LIKE TIPPY! THEY MUST HAVE GOT HIM!
THEY DID!!--? SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE RUNNING! IT MAY BE THE KILLER!

THAT'S TWO SCORES TO SETTLE WITH YOU, MR. KILLER! FIRST, HANNIGAN, AND NOW, TIPPY!
CLIMBING THE LADDER, THE ANGEL RACES ALONG THE CAR-TOPS ON THE KILLER'S TRAIL!
NOW WHERE--? AH, THERE HE IS! STOP, YOU!
KEEP AWAY, OR YOU'LL GET THE SAME THING!
CATCHING UP WITH THE KILLER AT THE END OF THE LAST CAR, THE ANGEL---
WE'LL SEE---
--STRIKES--!
--ABOUT THAT!
WOOF! PHWEET!
THUD!
THE SHRILL WHISTLE BRINGS REINFORCEMENTS---
NOW, WE'LL SEE WHAT'S BEHIND THIS--
AND-
MAS--? AHHH!
GOOD WORK, LUMPY! NOW, WE'LL COMPLETE THE JOB ON HIM!
SMACK!
5

THE ANGEL IS LASHED TO AN OPEN COUPLING OF ONE OF THE FREIGHT CARS!
NOW WHAT, BOSS?
SEE THAT LOCOMOTIVE BACKING ONTO THIS TRACK? WELL, IT'S GOING TO COUPLE UP THESE CARS! WHEN IT DOES----
WHEW! HE'LL BE CRUSHED LIKE A ROTTEN GRAPE-FRUIT!
EXACTLY! HE HAS ENOUGH ON US TO HANG US! NOW, LET'S GO!
YEAH, THE LOCOMOTIVE IS BACKING UP!
BUT AS THE THUGS LEAVE, THE ANGEL REVIVES!
CRASH!
OHH, MY HEAD!
CLANK!
AND THE FULL HORROR OF HIS POSITION STRIKES HOME!
OKAY! BACK 'ER UP!
THAT TRAIN! I'LL BE CRUSHED!
AS THE ON-COMING CARS NEAR HIM, ANGEL SEARCHES DESPERATELY FOR SOME MEANS OF ESCAPE!
BACK! BACK!
THERE'S ONE CHANCE! IF I CAN ONLY--
AND..!
WHEW! MADE IT! AND THE CARS HAVE CUT THE ROPE!
CLANK!

NOW TO... WHAT'S THAT ON THE GROUND?
A CAMEO! IT MAY HAVE FALLEN FROM A RING, WORN BY ONE OF THE THUGS!
MOMENTS LATER, IN THE MANAGER'S OFFICE, THE ANGEL PUTS HIS PLAN INTO OPERATION BY CALLING A MEETING OF ALL EMPLOYEES!
WHAT'S WRONG, SIR?
THE ANGEL IS INVESTIGATING THE MURDERS! HE HAS SOMETHING TO SAY TO ALL OF YOU!
YES! A MURDERER AND HIS TWO HENCHMEN ARE HIDING AMONGST YOU! I KNOW HIS HENCHMEN! NOW...
WHAT?
WELL, I'LL BE...
WHO?
I'M GOING TO PICK OUT THE MURDERER!
THE ANGEL'S EYES SHIFT FROM MAN TO MAN AND COME TO REST ON THE RIGHT HAND OF THE... FOREMAN...
SO!
MR. TRAITOR! I SEE YOU'VE LOST THE SETTING FROM YOUR RING! IS THIS IT?
I DIDN'T KNOW I LOST... YES, IT IS! WHERE'D YOU FIND IT?
NEAR THE SPOT WHERE YOU TRIED TO MURDER ME TO-NIGHT, TRAITOR, YOU KILLED HANNIGA...
HE'S WISE, BOYS... LET'S SCRAM...
BUT AS THE THUGS MAKE A DASH FOR THE DOOR, THE ANGEL LEAPS...
C'MON! LET'S... OOOOF!
NO YOU DON'T! YOU'VE A DATE WITH THE EXECUTIONER!
7

WHILE TAINTOR, HIS MAIN AVENUE OF ESCAPE CUT OFF, SPINS ON HIS HEEL---
ANGEL! TAINTOR'S GETTING AWAY!
TAKE CARE OF THESE PUNKS! I'LL GET HIM!
AND!
I'LL SETTLE WITH YOU LATER!
OPTIMISTIC-!
-AREN'T YOU?
I'LL MAKE AN ANGEL OUT--
--OF YOU--- AHHHHH!
I GUESS THAT WINDS UP THIS CASE!
A FEW MINUTES LATER--
THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO ASK! HOW DID YOU KNOW TAINTOR WAS THE MURDERER?
I DIDN'T, 'TIL HE JUMPED FOR THAT WINDOW! ONLY A GUILTY ONE WOULD DO THAT! NOR DID I KNOW THE OTHERS!
YOU MEAN YOU WERE BLUFFING WHEN YOU SAID YOU KNEW ALL THREE?
RIGHT--I GAMBLED ON FINDING THE RING THE CAMEO BELONGED TO! THEN LETTING THE CONSCIENCES OF THE GUILTY PARTIES TO DO THE REST! IT DID!
THE END

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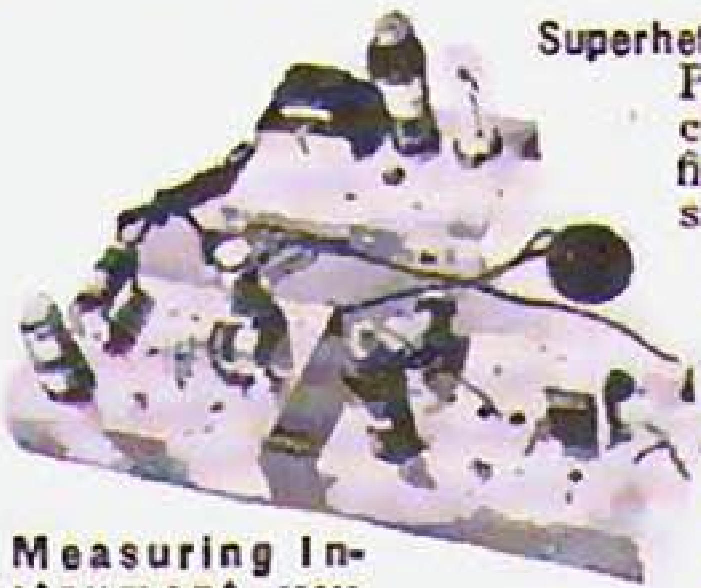

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